



the summer of no regrets

katherine
grace
bond

THE SUMMER OF NO REGRETS, A YA NOVEL

Brigitta, searching for Ultimate Truth, saves the life of a boy who's a dead ringer for egotistical teen heartthrob Trent Yves. Has her secret Hollywood obsession taken over her brain? Or is there something "Luke Geoffrey" isn't telling her?

A literary novel that explores death, the transition to adulthood, spirituality, and identity, this fresh take on summer romance will enchant fans of Sarah Dessen and Deb Caletti and capture your heart.

Book Information

PUBLISHER Sourcebooks
PUBLICATION DATE May 1, 2012
ISBN 9781402265044

DIMENSIONS

Length: 8.25 in
Width: 5.5 in
Weight: 10.72 oz
Page Count: 304 pages

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE \$8.99

PRODUCT FORMATS Also available in Kindle, Nook and other electronic formats

ANCILLARY PRODUCTS Coming in June: Luke's Journal, the story from Luke's point of view.

Where did Luke go when he disappeared? What's happening behind the scenes in his life? e-book.

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Raves

“THE SUMMER OF NO REGRETS will nudge its way into your heart with its endearing characters and captivating storyline. Katherine Grace Bond has deftly created a very appealing read that brims with hope and humor.”

JUSTINA CHEN, AUTHOR OF NORTH OF BEAUTIFUL

“What do you get when you mix a teen heart throb, orphaned baby cougars, and a girl on a search for answers to life's big questions? You get THE SUMMER OF NO REGRETS, a story full of fun and heart.”

DEB CALETTI, NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST AND AUTHOR OF THE SIX RULES OF MAYBE

“THE SUMMER OF NO REGRETS is funny and hopeful but also provokes deeper thinking... This book will have you laughing and crying.”

TRINI, A BOOK LOVER'S REVIEW

“...a light, fun, romantic read. I'd recommend this book to fans of Sarah Dessen.”

JESS, GONE WITH THE WORDS

“expect the unexpected. And unexpected is a good thing in THE SUMMER OF NO REGRETS.”

JENA, SHORTY SAYS

“There was something about Brigitta's fierce heart... It was honest without being preachy. ..There may be budding romance and crazy capers, but this is no light summer read.”

JESSICA, WASTEPAPER PROSE

“I couldn't turn the pages fast enough.”

TIFFANY, ON GOODREADS

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THE BOOK

Brigitta: On a quest for Ultimate Truth. Reads poetry and comparative religion.

...Secretly buys the National Enquirer

Luke: Lives in a house with a heated driveway. Vacations in Aruba.

...Looks a lot like hot teen star Trent Yves.

What's the truth about him?

And what happens if you fall in love with a lie?

The day Brigitta accidentally flings herself into the lap of a guy she's never met, her friend Natalie is convinced he's Trent Yves, egotistical heartthrob-in-hiding. When the boy, who calls himself Luke, is nearly eaten by a cougar, Brigitta finds herself saving his life, being swept into his spectacular embrace and wondering if she wants Natalie's fantasy to be true.

As the two spend the summer together raising orphaned cougar cubs, Brigitta still can't be sure of his true identity. But then again, since her grandparents' deaths, her father's sudden urge to give away all their possessions and become a shaman, and her own awkward transition from girlhood into a young woman, she isn't sure of anything. What is the truth? More importantly, can she accept it?

A literary novel that explores death, the transition to adulthood, spirituality, and identity, this fresh take on summer romance will enchant fans of Sarah Dessen and Deb Caletti and capture your heart.

How to Sound Like You've Read the Book

Brigitta is searching for ultimate truth—she reads poetry, she thinks deep thoughts, she studies various religions... and she secretly reads the National Enquirer. Brigitta's best friend, Natalie makes no secret about her own celebrity obsession. She "spots" celebrities everywhere—Josh Hutcherson scooping ice cream at the burger arcade, Robert Pattinson asking for change in Pioneer Square. So when Luke Geoffrey moves into their little town, Natalie is sure he's Trent Yves, hottest of the hot teen actors, hiding from his fans.

Brigitta lives with her parents in a place called "The Center," an off-the-grid house in the woods made of tires and dirt where her atheist-turned-shaman father leads an eclectic variety of spiritual groups, including Buddhist poets, Kosher environmentalists and Catholic nuns (all of whom Brigitta studies).

When Luke shows up on The Center property unexpectedly, Brigitta ends up saving him from a cougar. And you know what? He kind of does look like Trent. When he sweeps her into his spectacular embrace, Brigitta finds herself wondering if she wants Natalie's fantasy to be true.

Mostly, though, Brigitta is just amazed to find someone who really gets her, who doesn't think all her philosophical pondering is weird, or that her family is weird. She's even able to talk to him about her grandparents, whose deaths she hasn't been able to mourn because her dad pretty much shuts down any conversation about them. Her grandparents were deeply religious, while her dad was deeply atheist (until they died and he decided to become a shaman.)

After the cougar is shot by a wildlife official, Luke and Brigitta find her orphaned kittens and decide to raise them secretly, fearful that the kittens, too, will be killed if they are discovered. And as she comes to know him during midnight feedings and a spur-of-the-moment escape to the coast, she lets go of her celebrity fantasy and realizes she wants Luke, not Trent Yves. But when Luke's own secrets catch up with him, Brigitta is left betrayed and reeling. A final, devastating blow forces her to take off alone on a plane bound for a place she lost. There she becomes a burglar, breaks her father's silence and begins to understand that "being well-known" and "being known" are not necessarily the same thing.

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THE AUTHOR

Bio Talking Points

Introduction of Katherine Grace Bond for adult audiences:

Katherine Grace Bond has focused on teen writers and readers since the early 90's because she believes creative communities save lives.

1. She is the author of *THE SUMMER OF NO REGRETS*: A literary YA novel exploring topics of death, loss, spirituality and a search for meaning through the question, "Is the boy next door a movie star in hiding?"
2. She is also the author of *THE LEGEND OF THE VALENTINE*: A bestselling book for children, set during the Civil Rights Movement. Used in anti-bullying curricula in schools and faith-based programs throughout the United States.
3. And she is the founder of *TEENWrite*, a live-action role-playing and writing community based on the Hero's Journey, where participants come as characters they create. *TEENWrite* exists to foster teens' innate ability to welcome and encourage one another.

Introduction of Katherine Grace Bond for youth audiences:

Katherine Grace Bond often finds herself in the woods of the Pacific Northwest escaping from giant cats and shadowy figures in cloaks.

1. She is the founder of *TEENWrite*, a live-action role-playing and writing community, where you come as a character you create.
2. She's also the author of the YA novel *THE SUMMER OF NO REGRETS*: About a girl's struggle to maintain her identity, hide her secret tabloid collection, cope with the death of her grandparents, and deal with her father's conversion to shamanism, all while covertly raising cougar cubs in a treehouse with a new guy in town who may or may not be a movie star in hiding.
3. She also wrote *THE LEGEND OF THE VALENTINE*: A bestselling children's story about bullying, bravery and the Civil Rights Movement

Photos



FOR THE INTERVIEW

Interview Topics and Angles

Creating THE SUMMER OF NO REGRETS

A book about a girl's struggle to maintain her identity, hide her secret tabloid collection, cope with the death of her grandparents, and deal with her father's conversion to shamanism, all while covertly raising cougar cubs in a treehouse with a new guy in town who may or may not be a movie star in hiding? How did all of this stuff make its way into the same novel? And how does it all fit together?

Katherine discusses the novel about which readers are saying "I have truly never read a book like this before."

Why We Crave Fame

"I didn't want to admit how much the idea of a celebrity-in-hiding intrigued me," says Katherine Grace Bond about THE SUMMER OF NO REGRETS. "But as I read through stacks of *People* and *Star* and *Us* (which is a lot like eating sugar cubes all day long), I started to wonder what the deal is about fame. Why does it fascinate us? What does it mean to us to be 'known'?"

Finding the Real Me

"Though Brigitta in THE SUMMER OF NO REGRETS, hides the 'real she,' she's still more self-possessed than I was as a teen," admits Katherine Grace Bond. "But I did eventually find the 'real Katherine,' and I've learned a few things about going from fake to real."

Finding what is Lost

"How could death and life be sisters like that?" THE SUMMER OF NO REGRETS, p. 48

In THE SUMMER OF NO REGRETS, Brigitta grieves the loss of the person who knew her best. When you lose someone it seems like there's no way to find them ever again. But creating something can be a different way of finding.

Following the Mystery

"I want the Great Cosmic Mystery to let me climb on its back." THE SUMMER OF NO REGRETS, p. 3

"Why did I write a book about a girl searching for ultimate truth?" asks Katherine Grace Bond. "Because that's my story; I'm always trying to touch the sun." The author of THE SUMMER OF NO REGRETS shares a bit of her own eclectic spiritual history.

Writing the Hidden Story

Characters live and breathe because of a hidden story—one a writer must go deep within to find. Katherine discusses the hidden stories behind THE SUMMER OF NO REGRETS.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR KATHERINE GRACE BOND

1. Not only do you write for teens, you have worked with them as a teacher and mentor for many years. What is it that you love about working with and writing for teenagers?
2. You have a program called TEENWrite where kids go into the woods in costume, as characters they have created. Can you explain a little more about this?
3. Students in your TEENWrite community say you've taught them to talk to their characters. What do they mean by that? Do you talk to your characters? Do they talk back?
4. In THE SUMMER OF NO REGRETS, Brigitta wonders if the Luke, the guy she falls for, is secretly a movie star. In fact, Brigitta has quite the celebrity obsession, but she keeps it a secret. Why is Brigitta so fascinated by celebrities, and why doesn't she want anyone to know?
5. Many readers have admitted to falling in love with Luke. What is so fascinating about him?
6. In THE SUMMER OF NO REGRETS, Brigitta is searching for truth, her best friend Natalie thinks she sees movie stars everywhere, her dad has gone from atheist to shaman, her mom talks to fairies, her know-it-all sister Mallory is dating a 40-year-old college professor, and Luke, the boy Brigitta falls in love with, seems to be hiding something. Which of these characters was most fun to write and why?
7. Brigitta, the main character in THE SUMMER OF NO REGRETS, is looking for a religion. This book deals a lot with religion and with religious conflict. Why did you choose to tackle such a sensitive topic?
8. THE SUMMER OF NO REGRETS has Hollywood, homeschooling, mountain lions, multiple spiritualities and an off-the-grid house called an Earthship. How did you approach doing research for this book?
9. In THE SUMMER OF NO REGRETS, Brigitta has lost her grandmother and is still grieving a year and a half later. Losing grandparents is a fairly common experience for teens; why has Brigitta been unable to move on? How have your own experiences with grief informed this book?
10. What is it that you want to share with teenagers through the work you do? What do you hope to get across?