



Sooner or Later

Carole Hart , Bruce Hart

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Thirteen-year-old Jessie Walters experiences her first feelings of love when she meets a seventeen-year-old musician but she feels she must lie about her age to him.

Sooner or Later Details

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Arlene Allen says

Ah, the movie of the same name made a star of Rex Smith. Who? If you grew up in the 70's you would know him...he was also Daredevil in the Incredible Hulk tv series. The book was okay; it was Rex we loved.

Zamora says

It helped that while reading this book, **this** beautiful face stayed in my mind. I really loved the movie and the book added even more layers on it. I'm going to read the next in the series.

J.J. Johnson says

Wooo doggy! Talk about judging a book by its cover (and blurb). My friend and I bought this book and its sequel for a quarter each at the paperback exchange when I was 12-ish. I hid them from my mom. I can't say it was transcendent writing, but obvs it was transcendent reading for a 12-13 year old. Stayed with me all these years. Of course I loved Judy Blume as well, but these stuck with me as scandalous AND mind-reading. I remember so much of it ... lines like "if you buy a bra, it's like buying a garage for your car" and then you're sure to get breasts ... unless I'm remembering wrong ... I must re-read these books, pronto. Where can I find them?!? :)

Stephanie says

I first saw the television adaptation of this story, then was delighted and surprised to find the novel in the YA section of my local bookstore. I actually like the book more than the movie. It treats teenage love with the reverence it deserves. I also related so strongly to Jessie's desire for romance, glamor, and excitement at the young age of thirteen. The prospect of leaving my suburban home in NJ with a rock star harkened back to my earliest David Cassidy fantasies. (Yep, I wanted to run away with David Cassidy when I was 5. Call me precocious.)

The two sequels to this book -- **Waiting Games** and **Now or Never** are equally strong. I was happy they didn't let me down, as this story has always been dear to my heart.

Loraine Kelley says

Great read about becoming a teen and learning about boys and dating.

Mindy says

This would of received 5 stars from my 12 year old self, but now I have to go with 3. I remember loving this book and movie. It was such a big deal that she was 13 and lied about her age to date a 17 year old. The book was written from the screen play, so it is very choppy. As an adult I want more detail, but when I read it as a child I just loved it.

Mel says

No, you can't borrow it.

Carla says

I came across this book in one of my trunks. I have kept it since the first time I read it and fell for Bruce and Carole Hart's writing.

As I turned each page, the flash of me as a teen filled with wonder, excitement, and lost within the pages hit - which had me devouring the book in under an hour.

A great an easy read filled with the high emotions of a 13 year old girl trying to come into her own as she is attracted to a 17 year old boy. I might have read Judy Blume, but the Harts understood me.

Jessie Walters is like every girl was when I was growing up, I even think I was a form of Jessie. She quickly finds herself attracted to Michael Skye and the torment, deception, angst begins.

This is the first of Jessie and Michael's trilogy.

Simple writing, fast read - but 5 stars because for an hour I was a teen again.

Gina Sharp says

I read this when I was a young teenager and loved it. It was one of those books that made me fall in love with reading. I found it and rebought it at a used book store and it is still sitting on myshelf now that I am 41 yrs old.

Steph Anne says

I dedicate this review to my 13-year-old self, who read this book a total of 30 times (I kept count). I still find the story very touching and will admit to owning a copy of the film (gone are the days when a career could be made by appearing in the right TV movie at the right time--see Rex Smith).

Eileen says

this is nostalgia at it's best...this book will never leave me again! i bought in online a few years ago..while it is written for junior high age girls, i feel like one again when i read it. it's a rock and roll teenage romance.

Ann Mulholland says

Loved this book when I was 14 and I loved it now. Such a sweet story of first love, and we have all been thru it. Can't wait to read the sequel.

Just read this again, in one sitting. Can't get enough of Michael & Jessie.

Rachel says

Today I remembered that I was a pre-teen once and I loved this story. I would like to go back and see how it holds up.

Lala says

"Sex education is a joke." Precocious 13 year old Jessie Walters surmises about three seconds before getting caught reading *Babylon in Flames* when she's supposed to be watching a Sex Ed filmstrip. Oops. I guess the joke's on her because about three pages later she meets Michael Skye, the shaggy haired 17 year old suburban rockstar (and Atlanta transplant) strutting his stuff at the local mall in Hackensack.

Jessie decides it's true love and so naturally cannot tell Michael(did I mention she just happens to stumble into a Eddie Nova's guitar studio and Michael happens to be the teacher)anything remotely resembling the truth about herself.

If I remember correctly the cheesy 1979 movie starring the baby goddess Denise Miller (most recently seen in the lesbo yukfest *April's Shower*) and Rex Smith came first and then the novel.

Either way this is good stuff here. Jessie is adorable and smart and innocent, but at the same time very savvy. Still she's THIR-FUCKING-TEEN and as her friend Caroline astutely points out, "Older boys are different. They're like MEN only younger."

The prose is a bit dodgy and reads something like this...

Michael is sexy.

Michael is *sexy*?

Is that a chicken on the lawn?

Michael and I should be rolling on the lawn...

and so forth. Still, rereading it made me feel 13 again and I had to watch the movie and listen to the soundtrack, namely, "You Take My Breath Away" sang in all kinds of cheesetastic, glittery earnest by Rex

Smith.

sigh.

Joanie says

I loved this book when I was younger and loved the movie adaptation too. A 13 year old girl gets a makeover at the mall and then goes to see a band play (also in the mall of course) and catches the eye of the lead singer (can't remember if he's over or under 18 but he's right around there.) She winds up taking guitar lessons from him and pretending to be older and they start dating but he has no idea how old she is. Everyone I knew read this book in junior high-loved it!
