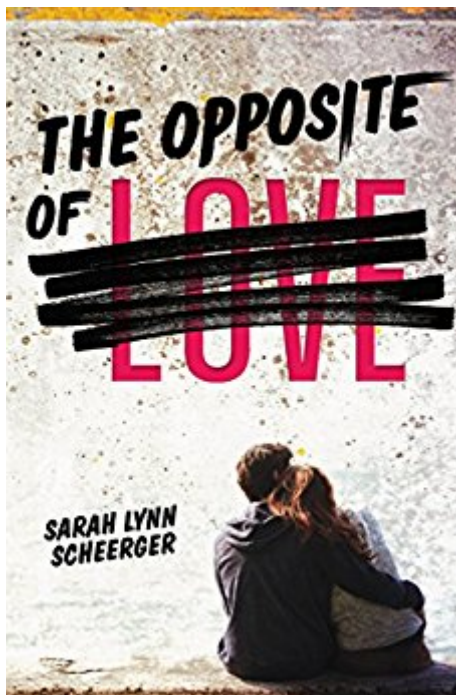


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# The Opposite Of Love



## Synopsis

Rose is the wild girl nobody really knows. Chase is haunted by his past. Both are self-proclaimed "disappointments," attracted to each other enough to let down their defenses. When Rose's strict, adoptive parents forbid the relationship, it only makes things more intense. But Chase can't hide from his own personal demons, and Rose has secrets of her own. After they're wrenched apart, a cryptic email arrives in the middle of the night on Christmas Eve, beginning a desperate pursuit and a look back over their tumultuous romance. Will they find each other before the night is over, or will they be torn apart forever?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade: B-When Rose and Chance, two troubled teens, meet through their best friends, she pushes him away. Adopted after living the first six years with her prostitute mother, Rose defies her obsessively strict parents, refusing to get close to anyone. Chance has his father's temper, even though he hasn't seen him in three years. He parents his little sister more than either his mom or dad

ever did. Rose's parents go to great lengths to keep them apart, and the consequences may be tragic. THE OPPOSITE OF LOVE isn't hate, but apathy, according to Rose, and apathy is pretty much how I feel about Sarah Lynn Scheerer's debut. Her sophomore effort, ARE YOU STILL THERE? is a much better written novel. Told in both Rose and Chance's third person POVs without distinction between the voices. The story skipped back and forth between 16 months, which was at times confusing and would have been a better read if written linearly. Scheerer did a great job creating two main characters with unique and interesting backstories. Rose's issues of trust, rebellion and control would be typical for children adopted from a biological parent at age six. While I didn't always like her, I understood her. Chance was mostly sympathetic, except one situation with his mother. I wished she would have been more of a mother and I wish she had gotten some help for herself and the family. I didn't like the ending, and there were several questions left unanswered. THEMES: romance, adoption, alcoholism, domestic violence, parents

Sarah Lynn Scheerer skillfully captures the complex nature of teens, adults, and their respective journeys toward self-fulfillment. This book allows the reader to experience the anguished teenage mind from within, in a way that makes seemingly irrational, "out of control" behaviors seem like the only logical conclusions a teen can make in the context of their world, which has been molded by just as dysfunctional, yet well-meaning adults. Silence, used as a tool to control a life dictated by others, allows the teen to maintain some sense of empowerment and survival. Fear of becoming one's tormentor, terrorizes a teen seeking to stay true to his inner compass. Misguided parental over-protection or permissiveness leads to paradoxical outcomes. Whereas some therapists and doctors may attempt to blindly placate via advice and medications, the positive, healing power of emphatic mentors, including parents who learn to really listen, can transform a teen's self-destructive negative trajectory into opportunities for growth and fortitude.

Fabulous debut novel from an up-and-coming author. The author had me from the first page and kept my attention with her well-developed characters, story line and suspense. Usually I don't like stories told out of sequence, but the author's command of this technique added to the story. I feel like if it were told from point A to point B, it wouldn't have had the same impact. I actually enjoyed being thrown into the teenage chaos and then watching the characters' pasts slowly emerge. It made me as a reader

more sympathetic to Chase and Rose and I wondered what I would do in a similar situation. Life is hard. Life isn't fair. How we choose to deal with those two facts makes all the difference. Looking forward to reading more of this author's work. One question though. From the detailed descriptions of the main characters, who did Albert Whitman put on the cover? That is definitely NOT Chase and Rose. Don't let that editor cast the movie. He/she will get it all wrong.

I don't have children, and it's been a long time since I was a teenager, but this book somehow caught my attention. Maybe it was the title. What is "the opposite of love"? According to the female protagonist, Rose, age 15, it's not "hate," as one would think, but "not giving a damn." She has plenty of experience with this. Her biological mother abandoned her (through no fault of her own, it turns out) and her adoptive parents seem totally clueless and uninterested in her. But there's definitely more to Rose than meets the eye. She is hiding something, and she is torn between maintaining her tough facade and opening herself up to love and risking yet another rejection. Her new friend Chase is in a similar situation. He has a mother who seems loving, when she's around, which isn't often. His father, an abusive alcoholic, has thankfully disappeared from the scene. But, as dysfunctional as it is, it is the only family he's got, and he is determined to protect it at any cost. But as much as they need each other, their budding relationship does not proceed smoothly. Like most relationships in the real world, it's bumpy, as both parties struggle to balance the polar pulls of intimacy and independence. Although this book is classified as young adult fiction, it really rang true to this old lady. The characters seemed consistent and believable, complicated and layered, tough and achingly vulnerable. In other words, like typical teenagers. The dialogue seemed authentic. The story line is fast-paced and propels you along. There are enough twists and turns in the plot line to keep you guessing. And the ending strikes just the right balance between tying up the loose ends and leaving a few strands open to the imagination. Bottom line: I loved this book!

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