



Saving Red

Sonya Sones , Caitlin Kelly (Reading) , Tbd (Reading)

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Right before winter break, fourteen-year-old Molly Rosenberg reluctantly volunteers to participate in Santa Monica's annual homeless count, just to get her school's community service requirement out of the way. But when she ends up meeting Red, a spirited homeless girl only a few years older than she is, Molly makes it her mission to reunite her with her family in time for Christmas. This turns out to be extremely difficult—because Red refuses to talk about her past. There are things Molly won't talk about either. Like the awful thing that happened last winter. She may never be ready to talk about that. Not to Red, or to Cristo, the soulful boy she meets while riding the Ferris wheel one afternoon.

When Molly realizes that the friends who Red keeps mentioning are nothing more than voices inside Red's head, she becomes even more concerned about her well-being. How will Molly keep her safe until she can figure out a way to get Red home? In Sonya Sones' latest novel, two girls, with much more in common than they realize, give each other a new perspective on the meaning of family, friendship, and forgiveness.

Saving Red Details

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Author : Sonya Sones , Caitlin Kelly (Reading) , Tbd (Reading)

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From Reader Review Saving Red for online ebook

Tissy says

Couldn't finish and couldn't rate. It's quite interesting but the writing is so distracting and I just don't feel a connection with the MC at least not enough to find out what the big secret is - though I can kind of guess. Will come back to at some point ...maybe.

Angel says

Even for a YA novel this reads *very young*. And for a novel done in verse, not very poetic either... seemed more so to be crafted this way simply to add the illusion of length. None of the characters were able to win me over either and on top of that the insta-attraction/love... nope. Not for me. I usually love novels in verse too..

E.C. Newman says

I think one of my favorite things about the verse is that the figurative language (similes especially) sounds both amazing but like a teenager would have come up with it.

smgK8 says

Wow. This book is AMAZING. I don't even know where to begin it's so good. Let me start by saying I've never read anything by this author but as soon as I am done writing this review I plan to put other books on my list.

This book was so captivating I wished I could read even faster to know what would happen. It wavered between 100% realistic and not so much but then it wasn't because it couldn't happen but because my head was screaming "NO! That's not a good idea!" So it wasn't so much unrealistic as painfully realistic if that makes sense.

I love the themes in this story. The idea of what it means to exist in a family dealing with tragedy and a family that suffers from a fair amount of dysfunction is so relatable that I cannot wait to recommend it to students. The notion of loving someone with a mental illness was so incredibly portrayed from the ups and the downs and the ugly reality of what that is like.

Friends - read this book. You will NOT be disappointed. I rarely gush about a book (and you can see from my ratings I like a lot of books) but this one is worth the read. Plus I want someone else to read it so I have someone to talk about it with.

Sarah Amelia says

This was a lovely book written in verse. It was the second book I've read in verse so that was different. I really enjoyed the story and recommend it!

Lucy (That Book Gal) says

This book.

This book.

This book.

I have no idea

where to even start.

This book

Ripped out

My heart.

And that's all I'm going to write in verse :P speaking of things written in verse, THIS BOOK IS. It's the first book I've ever read written in verse, so it was a totally new experience for me.

This book is one the best representations of mental illness I've read. The main character, Molly, has panic attacks. It's something I've dealt with, and I feel like the author showed it in a raw and honest way, a way she couldn't have without the style she implemented. I know a lot of books use verse these days, so I know to me the style and story was so unique. To others, maybe it's not, but I really enjoyed it. Another character is super mentally unstable but I love how it shows she still a person, still human.

There is a really sweet, wonderful romance but it's not the whole point of the book, or super overwhelming. It was really cute and lovely.

So let's talk about the characters. There are really only six, which made this book really pop. Because there wasn't a ton, each one really got fleshed out and explored. I really loved all the characters, and I adored every word of the story within these pages.

I'm not going to say much more, because I knew nothing about this story before reading it and the reading experience was so, so good.

The verdict? GO READ THIS BOOK.

CONTENT GUIDE -

Intimacy - thoughts of kissing, a mentally ill character nearly strips, then nearly gets attacked by rapists

Drugs/drinking - a major character is hooked on pot

Cursing - almost none

Violence - none, but this book is really intense.

Allyson Maclay says

This book was amazing! here is so much I to talk about after reading this book! First as someone who works with homeless girls from age 13to21 that have all different mental status this book really tug at the heart strings! As someone who has a BA in psychology and has worked at mental health office this book really gave me an even better in site into the inner workings of this mental illness. Yes I have always understood what happens when a person has this but this just made it more real to me. But the only thing I can say is the ending was a bunch of emotions all in one

Jennifer says

I might change my rating later but for now it's a 2.75.

I enjoyed this book, but it didn't blow me away. I wasn't a huge fan of the main character either, or the way that she thought. She kept repeating words over and over and it got annoying. I did however really enjoy the message of this book, how just because someone is homeless doesn't mean they don't have a family that loves them. I read parts of this book really quickly and other parts were just boring for me. The main character Molly talks about not being able to talk about something for more than half of the book. I thought it would be a giant secret she was keeping but it was nothing like that. I was going to give this book a 2 before the ending but now I need to know what happens. I needed at least 10 more pages! The book just ended! The ending is why it got an extra .75.

Overall I recommend this book if you're looking for a quick read. This book does talk about mental illness as well.

Wendi Lee says

With the exception of insta-love between Molly and Cristo, I truly enjoyed this novel-in-verse about a girl trying to save another girl in order to save herself.

And honestly, I thought Cristo was a pretty good character as well. I just wish their relationship had had a little more time to brew.

Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to HarperCollins and Edelweiss.)

***“Maybe no one can give me
what I want for the holidays.
But I can give
that gift to someone else!”***

This was a YA contemporary story, written in verse, about a girl trying to help a homeless girl.

Molly was a caring girl, and it was obvious how strongly she felt about trying to help Red. I did think that her ideas about getting her home to her family in time for Christmas were maybe a little optimistic, but I think this was in part due to her own experiences with her brother. I also felt quite sorry for her in that her

friends had turned their backs on her, and Red ended up being her only friend.

“I didn’t even notice that, along the way somewhere, she’d become my best friend.”

The storyline in this was about Molly befriending this homeless girl called Red, who had schizoaffective disorder, and heard voices. We also got a bit of backstory about Molly’s brother Noah who had gone missing the previous New Year’s Eve, and a fast but sweet romance between Molly and a boy she met on a Ferris wheel.

“I like everything about you,”

The ending to this was pretty good, and things were wrapped up reasonably well. This book was just missing a little something for me.

6.5 out of 10

Erikka says

This is a fine story in verse about mental illness and charity and friendship. It is, however, not very appealingly written. I enjoyed the characters of Molly and Red. Molly is a good person with a lot on her mind and she tries to do the right thing. Red is schizoaffective and it's believably written. There's also a PTSD storyline that's intriguing. However, the Instalove is annoying, the language is like asking a teen who's just read an Ellen Hopkins book to try their hand at an issue novel in verse, and the fact that every! Exciting moment! Has an exclamation point! Is annoying! I think topically this book is important, but the writing would make me consider recommending other books on the topic first.

Thank you Edelweiss for the ARC!

Caitie says

Two and a half stars....I really wanted to like this book, and it could've been awesome but it turned out to not be awesome (for lack of a better word) at all. I'm clearly in the minority on this one, but there were too many things that bugged me.

I think my first problem with it was the fact that it was in verse. I get that it being in verse is the author's style, but I think for this book it didn't work. It lacked so much detail that I felt needed to be included, like more of a background on Molly's family life (even if Molly didn't want to talk about it). Her parents were

both bizarre...so your brother goes missing and your mom suddenly becomes a pot-head and your dad becomes an alcoholic/workaholic? Makes no sense, but again, my son/brother isn't missing so I wouldn't know. Didn't the school notice something was weird? Or not, if they allowed Molly to bring her brother's emotional support animal to school with her....still off to me.

Then there was the whole thing with Red, something wasn't right there and Molly felt the need to help her all of a sudden. I don't think so. No one seemed to notice that two girls--one of whom obviously had issues--get a hotel room. Um, no, not in my book. Also, Molly meets a boy and all of a sudden she's on a date with him?! Then they're exchanging texts being all lovey-dovey!? Still no, would not happen.

Nat says

Obviously a quick read, as I finished it in under four hours, between loads of laundry. There were some things I liked, and some that just really didn't work. In a nutshell, I liked the characters individually, but not exactly together, and what I didn't like so much was the way the novel ended (though, if things *hadn't* ended just this way, I probably would be disappointed all the same, so... meh). I'm also still grappling with the fact that a fourteen-year-old had so much responsibility thrust upon her by her parents, while also assuming some *serious* adult responsibility herself; I'm wondering how realistic it is, or if that even matters at all. The story is compelling enough that I scarfed it down. I suppose my feelings are complicated, but I'd gladly recommend *Saving Red* to any young teen who is interested in mental illness, or characters who have real-world obstacles to overcome.

PinkAmy loves \u0026#x1f495; books\u0026#x1f4d6;, cats\u0026#x1f63b; and naps\u0026#x1f6cf; says

GRADE: B-
3.5 STARS

Fourteen-year-old Molly is determined to help a homeless girl not much older than her, but Red has other ideas. Both girls are struggling, for different reasons. Red heads voices, Molly suffers from anxiety and uses a service dog.

Molly narrates the story in first person verse. She's clearly a character in a lot of pain. Her brother is gone (dead, kidnapped, runaway?) and she blames herself. Her father throws himself into work, her mother into weed. Her friends have abandoned her.

I was glad to see Sonya Sones tackle the issue of schizoaffective disorder, because it's much an even more difficult condition to treat than schizophrenia. Red's thinking seemed a bit too organized that I'd expect from a homeless person off her meds, but Sones captured the essence of the disorder fairly well,

I enjoyed Sones' writing and felt connected to the story more than Molly. The story of her befriending and trying to save Red didn't seem naive and a little insulting. Most people don't want to be saved.

I didn't like the insta-love story on steroids, and I do mean insta. I understood Molly needed a healthy foil to help figure out Red but I really hated the subplot. It distracted from the relationship between the girls and the

speed of making eye contact to falling in love isn't romantic, it's creepy. YA can tell stories about family and friendship without romance, particularly romance that serves as a panacea.

The plot wrap up was tied in too pretty a bow for me.

I do recommend SAVING RED, despite my criticisms.

Trisha says

This was a very tough story to read. One that I think would have benefited from a full novel style and less from the verse writing. Only because I think this is a strong story and one that should be told.

Red is homeless. She's young, living on the streets and is not terribly distressed by it. But this truth completely devastates Molly, who believes Red just needs her to save her. But Molly has a lot to learn about Red. About her life, about her past, and about her day to day world. Molly can't simply run in and "save" her. Besides, who really needs saving? Red or Molly?

A good story with a good purpose.
