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Once Was Lost



Synopsis

Samara Taylor used to believe in miracles. She used to believe in a lot of things. When your father's a pastor, it's hard not to buy in to the idea of the perfect family, a loving God, and amazing grace. But lately, Sam has a lot of reasons to doubt. Her mother lands in rehab after a DUI and her father seems more interested in his congregation than his family. When a young girl in her small town is kidnapped, the local tragedy overlaps with Sam's personal one, and the already worn thread of faith holding her together begins to unravel. In her third novel, acclaimed author Sara Zarr examines the coexistence of affliction and hope, and what happens when everything you thought you believed--about God, your family, and yourself--is transformed.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (73 customer reviews)

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[Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Drugs](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Fifteen-year-old Samara Taylor lives a lie. To the outside world, she and her family have the perfect life. But in reality, she feels like she's exploding into a million pieces. And her parents, the ones who should be able to put her back together, barely notice her plight. Sam's pastor father, who is always helping the congregation with their problems, rarely leaves any time to spend with his own wife and daughter. While her mother appears perfect in every way --- always pleasant, always prepared --- in reality, she battles an alcohol addiction and has recently entered a rehab center. Although

performing flawlessly in her role as preacher's daughter, Sam struggles with a new and unnerving doubt that God exists. Throw in money problems and constant scrutiny under the eyes of the congregation, and her life has slipped into a nightmare. To complicate matters further, a girl in the church has been abducted --- allegedly by someone she knows --- sending the church and town into an uproar. Sam's father is needed now more than ever as he must support the missing girl's family. Sam tries to help out by joining in on the search party and baking brownies with the youth group for the girl's older brother, but her heart is hurting. What kind of world is this where an innocent girl is kidnapped? What God would let this happen? Or maybe there is no God after all, she wonders. Sam debates whether or not she should talk about this with her father, but he is far too busy. Besides, with him being a preacher, how could he possibly understand? She longs to speak to her mom, who is away at the rehab center and won't return her phone calls. So Sam wanders, feeling more alone than ever. Sara Zarr has bestowed a unique gift to readers with ONCE WAS LOST.

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