



## Say You Will

*Eric Walters*

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**Say You Will** Eric Walters

**A funny, heartfelt novel about one high school boy's quest for a prom date, perfectly time for the surge in realistic YA.**

Sam is not exactly what you'd call a regular guy: while his IQ is stratospheric, his social skills don't quite rank as high, and his dating history: well, there's no history to speak of . . . yet. But Sam has set out to finally fit in. He's resolved to get some answers wrong in class; to stop getting perfect marks on his assignments; to get to know some people other than Ian and Brooke, his two closest (okay, only) friends--and find himself a prom date. And the prom is on *everyone's* mind: Sam's school has become swept up by promposals--in other words, very elaborate, very public scenes in which someone is asked to the prom. Sam thinks he might have found the inspiration he needs to ask the girl dreams out for a perfect night at the prom--as well as the unforgettable way to do it.

## Say You Will Details

Date : Published May 19th 2015 by Doubleday Canada

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Author : Eric Walters

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Genre : Contemporary, Young Adult, Romance, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Say You Will for online ebook

### Virginia says

won an ARC from Goodreads Firstreads:)

more like 3.5 stars. Cute, funny and sweet. A bit predictable but worth reading to see how things happen, even if you've already figured out what will happen. I also liked how realistic characters and relationships were (cheerleaders weren't mean, cliques weren't ridiculously segregated, etc).

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### Maddie says

3.5 stars. Loved this little gem. It's so cute, such a feel-good read. Brought me back to high school wishing I had known a boy like Sam. Eric Walters did a great job at setting up the perfect promposal without making me scoff at its cheesiness. I loved how endearing this book was.

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### Liz at Midnight Bloom Reads says

With prom season approaching, Eric Walters' *Say You Will* is the latest YA contemporary novel to get you excited about everything related to prom! I've come to expect Eric Walters' books to be more focused on generating interest in heavier social issues, so I was pleasantly surprised that his new novel was about a lighter subject. *Say You Will* definitely encourages you to get into the prom spirit!

Sam is the smartest student in his grade, but he can be totally socially awkward. Sometimes he just doesn't know the right words to say in a conversation, especially when his vast knowledge of random facts and trivia make him stand out amongst his peers. So now he's resolved to fit in better his junior year by dressing more casually and making a few mistakes in class instead of scoring the perfect marks that he normally easily achieves.

When a football player asks one of the most popular girls in school to be his prom date, Sam's school is swept into promposal fever. Who will be asked next to prom? And how much personal effort will they put into their promposal? As the promposals become more and more elaborate, Sam becomes determined to make one of his own to the girl of his dreams, and he'll need the help of his two best friends, Ian and Brooke, to make it possible.

While I don't remember any promposals during my own high school days ever having the potential to go viral online, it made *Say You Will* all the more amusing and entertaining to read. There's a mix of nervousness and anticipation in asking anyone out on a date, and always a chance of feeling embarrassed or humiliated if their response is negative, especially if it's done in a very public way. Sam hopes his promposal will be a success, but he's not all too confident that the girl he likes will agree to be his date. He only knows he'll regret it if he doesn't at least try, and the amount of thought he puts into his promposal is just so sweet!

I wish *Say You Will* was a little longer though, because at just under 200 pages, the novel is on the short side for a fast reader like me. I really did enjoy *Say You Will*, but I think it needed some more drama and conflict

to make me fall in love with the book. I was never really worried or doubtful that Sam wouldn't win over his dream girl since he never seemed to face any setbacks, but I did remain ever curious to know what form his promposal would take!

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### **Brigette says**

I would say more of a 3.5 for me. I have never read Eric Walters before but he has a really great pace. Although the story is simplistic and predictable, I was never bored and I really enjoyed the idea of writing about promposals. I will say the last four pages were probably the most dynamic part of the novel, but it did not disappoint. Thank you Penguin Randomhouse for the ARC! This is a fun summer read.

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### **Dana says**

*Say you will* is an adorable offering from Eric Walters, about an awkward boy creating a “promposal” for the girl he likes. As usual Mr. Walters writing is smooth as butter and his characters are realistic and lovable. For me personally, I did find the length of the novel a bit awkward, and felt it might have worked better as a short story. However for a middle grade book the length is probably ideal. Overall this is a fun and sweet story that will definitely leave you with a smile on your face.

### **Buy, Borrow or Bin Verdict: Buy**

Note: While this book is being marketed as YA, to me it felt a little young. I think kids between grades 6-9 would enjoy this the most.

Note: I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Jessica H says**

It is in true fashion that I finish this book the day of its release. However, I actually did not read this book in one day. I received it several weeks ago from a First Reads giveaway. Actually, if it hadn't been for the multitude of tests and quizzes, and not to mention sports competitions, projects and traveling, I totally could have finished this book in a day. It is not mind-boggling long, but it still contains a decent amount of character development and I actually appreciated how it wasn't 500 pages of dragged out events. The length of this book actually fits very well with the timeline of the plot.

But enough about the length of the book, let's talk about the actual book itself. First of all, the characters. Can we just talk about how awesome Sam and his friends are? I literally love all of them. Brooke is so edgy and she stands up for what she believes in- something that I (and Sam) admire immensely. She is brave and strong and not afraid to say what she thinks. These traits are difficult to find in characters in contemporary novels. Ian is a completely unique character and I so enjoyed laughing at the things he says (and taps out). Sam's mom reminds us of our own- pushy nervous-wrecks who only want the best for us. And although Sam's father is not in the novel as much, it is evident that inside his icy anti-social shell, he truly does care about his family and Sam's friends. Sam himself is a extremely loveable character, he has trouble picking up

on social cues and his intelligence and vast memory may be tedious at times but he is so caring and quirky that you can not help but to relate with him. Sam and his gang are all a little awkward and different in ways, they have all been classified as having something "wrong" with them, but what is wrong about them is what makes them so right for each other.

The plot of this story was so adorable and sweet. I loved how current-aged it is, unfortunately, this means it will. And I really liked learning that I have some of the same frustrations and confusions as some of the characters, with all of this new technology and how fast word spreads nowadays. Okay, that made me sound really old. I'm just saying that, does it not bother anybody else how there is literally no sense of privacy or intimacy today? If you are going to ask someone to a prom, it has to be public, expensive and it better be amazing because it will become a viral video no matter what happens. I was relieved to see that many of the characters thought on this topic a little bit too. How for some reason, big huge promposals are necessary these days. I loved how Walters told an honest truth of the way that things work today in society. I definitely related to Ian as he talked about how nothing is real until it is online.

I really liked who Sam asked to the prom. No spoilers, but may I just say I was really glad when we found out who he was going to ask. I had a strong feeling it was going to be her, but I was so glad I was right- not to mention, his promposal was so sweet and personal.

Walters writing is very fluent and complete. I really loved reading from Sam's point of view and Walter pieced that together wonderfully. I have two other books by Eric Walters (Alexandria of Africa and Beverly Hills Maasai), but I have not read them yet. Reading Say You Will definitely encouraged me to pick them up though.

Can we just talk about the cover for a second? I love how the cover ties into the story and the title is adorable. I really wish that the title could have been incorporated into Sam's promposal somehow though.

Now you are probably thinking, "wow, she is being pathetic, raving about a book that she won, how can we even trust her opinion?" But trust me, I'm telling the truth that this is a really good book. It is not the new Moby Dick or Hunger Games, but it is a very enjoyable fluffy and easy read. Is it my favourite book of all time? Of course not, but I do not in any way regret reading it nor did I ever think to stop reading it before I was finished. I am very grateful to have won this book and I consider myself extremely lucky. However, that does not sway my opinion in any way- let's just make that clear. This book has faults, as all books do. Let's talk about those for a second.

One thing this novel lacks is major conflict. There is certainly conflict throughout the book but Sam never gets in a fight with any of his friends, he never has to make an impossibly difficult decision between right and wrong. This is a contemporary novel, so I wasn't expecting him to save his whole town from evil promposing aliens, but I feel like it really would have added more to the book if there was a bit more of an external struggle.

-In more, the ending was slightly predictable. Maybe it is just because I have read so many books that I can pick up clues easily, but I had a really good feeling what the end of this book was going to be. I know Walters tried to keep us guessing, but I pretty much knew exactly who Sam was going to ask to prom.

This book has relatable characters, a compelling story line and a short list of improvements. I don't know about you, but that sounds pretty good to me. If you want to get technical about it, I would probably give this book a 4.8 or a 4.9, simply because it lacked depth. With that being said, I really did enjoy it. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys Rainbow Rowell, Sarah Dessen, Ally Condie, Gayle Forman or Sarah Gruen's novels. I highly recommend that you pick it up and thank you again to First Reads for allowing me the opportunity to read and review this book. And to anybody reading this, enter giveaways,

you never know when you might win.

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### **Aurora Dimitre says**

I was expecting more of this; my other experience with this publisher was phenomenal, but this one was mediocre in a *An Abundance of Katherines* kind of way (I think I actually rated that book five stars, but I've read more now so shush). I would be lying, though, if I said Ian and the entire concept of *CLOWN TOWN* didn't make me extremely happy.

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### **Cynthia says**

This book was exceptional! It was amazing. It was fantastic. It was fun. And most importantly of all, it blew all my stress away! I had a whole lot of fun reading this book, getting to know Brooke and Sam and Ian. I liked that they were their own characters. And I liked how natural and flowing everything in this book was. From the way they talked to the way they moved, it was a breeze to read in a laugh out loud way. Eric Walters is a natural story teller, and you can tell that he writes stories because he's inspired and he has fun writing them! This I believe. I like that he doesn't jam pack a whole lot of information. He creates the characters and he lets them talk in a setting. I really like that! I can't praise Eric enough! I have to go and read the rest of his books. Ta Ta! By the way, I think the title "Say you will" totally suits this book, and the ending was short but sweet. Awwww. I can't wait to read it again. La di da. Farewell, until the next book Eric! I absolutely loved the way the characters talked together ?

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### **Gita says**

A heart-warming easy and quick read. Enjoyed this book very much.

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### **AH says**

\*I won this book in a Goodreads giveaway. I will read and review this book when I receive it.\*

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### **Matthew Marcus says**

\*\*spoilers\*\*

I read Eric Walters, *Say You Will*. I wanted to read this book a little bit before I went to bed but I ended up reading it all because it was so good. Eric Walters has been one of my favourite authors for a long time, *Say You Will* was a really great book!

The characters are quirky and likeable; the three main ones are somewhat social outcasts or at least lower on the hierarchy, Sam the "freaky" smart kid, Ian who can't control what he says and Brooke, the social activist.

The book centers on Sam wanting to do a promposal.

This book at times was laugh out loud funny, there were parts where I just burst into laughter, it is a really good feel good book, specifically these parts, when Sam and Ian cheat on the multiple choice test with Morris code (the answers were A B B A) Ian covers it up by saying (about the promposal) "Well most of them come with musical accompaniment, and before class I asked Sam to tell me which group he thinks should be featured.....During the test he told me which group he wanted. It's ABBA." (page 91) and when Ian says, "remember when you think of me you should think of chocolate- the world's best- come and find me" for some reason that was just such a bizarre thing to say, it made me laugh.

The ending was so unexpected. I didn't see Sam proposing to Brooke coming. It made sense though they are really close. It is funny that she was helping him plan the entire thing when all along it was her.

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### **Jackie says**

For those old enough to remember the wonderful John Hughes movies of the 80s, you'll love this story.

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### **archdandy says**

Say You Will follows Sam and his friends as they try to put together the perfect 'promposal' for a mystery girl of Sam's choice. He has seen the elaborate 'promposals' put together by other boys and he wants to do one for a special girl that he wants to take to prom.

This was a short novel but I really enjoyed it. Fans of John Hughe's teenage drama movies will love this book! It evokes a lot of the same nostalgic feelings that Hughe's movies do. But at the same time I felt like it was a very original heart warming story. I think what really gave the story that 'oomf' that pushed it from just okay to a good story for me was the cast of characters. Sam's friends really made the story for me. They were funny and quirky and weren't just cookie cutter characters.

(view spoiler)

Overall this was a great read and I'm glad I won this one from Goodreads!

*\*An ARC copy of this book was provided through Goodreads First Wins in exchange for an honest review*

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### **Teresa says**

Sheldon Cooper meets Pretty in Pink. Loved it!

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## Michelle Wrona says

This review can also be found on A Thousand Lives Lived, check it out for more reviews!

### \*3.5 star rating\*

**Eric Walters remains one of the coolest authors out there, especially since he's Canadian (WOOO) but mostly because he writes in different genres. He skips between some fantasy, mostly contemporary, some dystopian and even tweaks of romance, like Say You Will had in store for readers. I believe that any reader, young or old, is able to find something they like about his novels, and they will never forget about that quick read that stole their hearts and left them obsessed. This was a pure example.**

Looking at my borrowed copy of the novel right now, I smile. **It's 192 pages long**, and actually turned out to be one of the quickest reads of the year for me. I love short books, but of course, yet again, the amount of reviews that I need to write pile up eventually, haha. Walters writes about the wonders of high school, along with some issues that teenagers go through, like: anxiety, prom, peer pressure and the pressure and **need to do well in school**. Especially since he has experience and even taught at an elementary school, he writes this exactly like from the perspective of a teenage boy, like one of my friends who I know in school.

This all begins with the craze of prom being right around the corner, though in this case, Sam is a junior and most likely still has one more year afterwards to go to prom again. In my school, WE ONLY GO WHEN WE'RE SENIORS. WHAAAAT!? (Some Canadian school boards do stuff differently, I guess.) Sam is a guy whose never had his first kiss, watches the girl of his dreams **like someone else**, and has a high IQ. He's the kind of guy who doesn't like to brag and show off of his talents, so he even pretends to not know the answer when writing a test. And then... he wants to prompose to the girl of his dreams in **an unforgettable fucking way. Seriously.**

If I spoil the way Sam asks his crush out, you'll die. *The whole book would be spoiled for you.* It's amazing on how Walters created an easy-going story that actually was incorporated with so much depth **that boys and girls will love.** YOU KNOW BOYS, IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO IMPRESS A CHICK FOR PROM, READ THIS BOOK. It's mutual advice, written by a man who surely knows what he's doing. Imagine if this story actually occurred! \*dies\* This would hit the news, I'm sure of it.

**The pacing was absolutely perfect.** Why do we need an everlasting super-long story with nothing much occurring? That would've been such nonsense and the planning process wouldn't even take half as long. I saw the whole plot as just something short, sweet and simple to satisfy readers. And hey, I know I was superbly satisfied from start to finish. 5/5 for sure, as well as the plot. Walters' writing never disappoints, and I continuously find myself seeing so much depth in his words that I just can't let go of what I'm reading. Is this a sign from the bookish heavens that I deserve more of his writing and a trip to his wonderful mind again and again? I'm pretty sure that you're thinking of a plain "YES" in your heads right now. Let's hope that I'm correct instead of making a fool out of myself.

[image error]

Although this was pitch perfect (no, not the movie reference) all throughout, **the characters are who stunned me.** Everyone seemed to be too perfect. Sam had that perfect reputation where he was so smart and

has social anxiety at the same time although people do speak to him. I liked him, but I certainly cannot admit that he's better than Walters' other protagonists. *He seemed a little too stuck-up and confident for my liking.* And then Brooke and her friends? They all seemed bite\*y to be honest. **There wasn't any character who had a mean reputation or wasn't your average person.** Walters added too much significance into every character and it actually grew to a disliking of some. That was a pure weakness.

AND BOY DID I ADORE THE ENDING! **That was the perfect finish.** It didn't leave us with suspense or take readers into a blast into the future where we see Sam and his lover at prom—no, we don't need that. From the start, readers had been anticipating the perfect promposal which the author had in mind especially from the summary, and we all knew that it would occur then. **This isn't supposed to be unpredictable, it's all irony anyways.** We're the readers, the audience, and we know what's going to happen but some of the characters don't. That's the best part, and what I know I won't forget about.

Just like how everyone deserves quiet and quality time in their lives, people deserve **an easy, good read.** This is the case, actually, and I know that many in the future will just pick this up for an hour or two and enjoy, devour and have a good time, trying to imagine what it's like to be a teenager again, finding a date and your first kiss, **a huge milestone.** This would be a huge milestone for me, anyway. First—fall in love with the cover, and then move on to the book, despite the lack of interesting characters.

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