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# This One Summer



## Synopsis

A New York Times bestseller A 2015 Caldecott Honor Book A 2015 Michael L. Printz Honor Book Every summer, Rose goes with her mom and dad to a lake house in Awago Beach. It's their getaway, their refuge. Rosie's friend Windy is always there, too, like the little sister she never had. But this summer is different. Rose's mom and dad won't stop fighting, and when Rose and Windy seek a distraction from the drama, they find themselves with a whole new set of problems. One of the local teens - just a couple of years older than Rose and Windy - is caught up in something bad... Something life threatening. It's a summer of secrets, and sorrow, and growing up, and it's a good thing Rose and Windy have each other. This *One Summer* is a tremendously exciting new teen graphic novel from two creators with true literary clout. Cousins Mariko and Jillian Tamaki, the team behind *Skim*, have collaborated on this gorgeous, heartbreaking, and ultimately hopeful story about a girl on the cusp of childhood - a story of renewal and revelation.

## Book Information

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Paperback: 320 pages

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Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (150 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #11,604 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Comics & Graphic Novels](#) #47 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Friendship](#) #50 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Girls & Women](#)

Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

The artwork in "This One Summer" reaches out and pulls the reader into the story. It is a very sad but well told tale. I have only one caution. The age range is 12-18. The subject matter is such that it may not be appropriate for some 12 year olds: 1) references to porn, oral sex, and blow jobs and 2) language. You will have to decide if this is appropriate for your child. My older child can deal with it,

but my younger one (still within suggested age range) wanted nothing to do with it. I was actually surprised at how difficult the story was. There was hope and joy, but so much sadness. The cover artwork is so joyful that I didn't expect it to be quite so heavy. I know it hinted at issues, but I was still not prepared.

"This One Summer" is a graphic novel by Mariko Tamaki with charcoal-and-ink art by Jillian Tamaki, a team of cousins whose first collaboration, *Skim*, won a New York Times Illustrated Children's Book Award. "Summer" tells the complex and ultimately edifying story of Rose, a tween (her age is never stated) who deals with family tensions and vicariously, by watching the local teens in the town where her family vacations explores the mysterious world of near-adulthood. Rose's mom, Alice, is dealing with depression in the aftermath of a failed pregnancy, and this leads to conflict with Rose's kindly (and slightly immature) dad. And as this conflict progresses from tension to acrimony to reconciliation, Rose finds her attention drawn first as an observer, and then as a sort of spy to a parallel drama playing out between a convenience-store clerk (and subject of a minor crush) and his apparently pregnant girlfriend. Her attention caught by these two stories, Rose seems to be pondering what role she can take on as an adult, and which one of the two roles that present themselves familiar, beloved, but withdrawn mother, or emotional, liberated, but tragic teenage girl lie closest to how she sees herself. Also in the mix is Windy, Rose's younger friend, who serves as a foil for Rose's dilemma. Windy is full of slighting references to the teens' drama, and whether this stems from sincere disdain or a desire to keep them at a safe distance, she gives voice to perspectives that are both younger and older than Rose's. In this way, she serves as a representation of the ways in which the community around an adolescent can be both comforting and alienating. Summer ends with these conflicts largely resolved. Rose's search for a place to call her own in the adult world concludes with a rediscovery of the strengths of her family and community, which equates to a rediscovery of her own strengths. The reader is tempted to imagine that Rose will find that maturing will move her closer to her true self to a role that suits her. Given the language, Summer may not qualify as a YA title for some, except in the sense that it concerns young protagonists. But it has much to offer as a portrait of the confusions and consolations of life on the verge of young adulthood.

A graphic novel as good as *This One Summer* is hard to find. The story revolves around a single summer in the life of a girl who is on the cusp of adolescence. Everything is formative at that age.

Events big and small all add up to shape a future that the child is only beginning to imagine. This is a story about the perils of family, the difficulty of growing up, and the process of learning to cope with life's complexity. Rose and her parents go to their summer cottage on the beach where Rose hangs out with her friend Windy. They talk about boys (of course) and sex (of course), two topics about which they know little. They swim and watch scary movies and bond. They're surrounded by adult drama that they often don't quite understand. Rose's mother is unhappy and is doing her best to make her unhappiness known to the world, creating tension in Rose's summer, particularly after her father returns to the city. Rose takes a keen interest in a scruffy 18-year-old boy from the corner store although she doesn't know how to deal with her curiosity about him. Fortunately, she hasn't entered the raging hormone teenage years. The boy has, of course, and his raging hormones have gotten him into a messy situation. I love Rose's attitude. Here's her take on Sex and the City: "Like, so they're 40 and they're having sex. Who cares?" Rose is always trying to puzzle out the meaning of adult behavior, even the behaviors of those who are only a few years older. Mariko Tamiko captures that uncertainty perfectly. I also love the way the art nearly always conveys a sense of action, even if it's just a bird in flight or a blowing leaf. As they should be in a graphic novel, many panels are free of words. The art (all sketched in blue) creates just the right atmosphere for the story. The story is low-key, told at a relaxed summer pace, and is utterly convincing. It's also surprisingly captivating and brutally honest without ever becoming melodramatic. It captures a stage of life better than most text-based literary novels can manage. Fans of serious graphic novels -- and any fan of good story-telling -- should consider spending time with *This One Summer*.

As many of the reviewers mentioned, this book has cursing and complaining, it talks about sex and the use of the word "slut", it explores postpartum depression, suicide, teen pregnancy, and marital troubles. This isn't a book for kids in elementary school, as they don't understand many of these themes, but, this is an important book for 9th grade up. It might be too "real" for some parents, but the themes and the characters in "This One Summer" may very well show up in their teenager's life. It's a coming of age story is about two girls who are trying to navigate the very adult things happening around them. They will not see sex or have it, they will not get drunk, but they will talk about these things as abstract concepts. I would recommend this book to my 15 year old self and again to my 18 year old self and again to my 35 year old self as my experience comes, I can identify with the different characters and situations.

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