



The Lucy Variations

By Sara Zarr

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Lucy Beck-Moreau once had a promising future as a concert pianist. Now, at sixteen, it's over. A death, and a betrayal, led her to walk away. But without music in her life, Lucy's not sure who she is, or who she wants to be. Then she meets Will, her brother's new piano teacher, who is young, kind, and interested in helping Lucy find her way back to piano—not for an audience, but on her own terms.

National Book Award finalist Sara Zarr takes readers inside one girl's struggle to reclaim her love of music, life, and herself in this stunning novel about finding joy in unexpected places.

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The Lucy Variations By Sara Zarr Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Pressure, expectation, the responsibility of “proving to the world and yourself that you weren’t just taking up space.” This has been privileged San Franciscan Lucy Beck-Moreau’s childhood as a renowned concert pianist. But after a family betrayal eight months ago, the 16-year-old walked off the stage in Prague, and her controlling grandfather’s words haunt her: “I take this as your final decision, Lucy.” Now, though, Lucy’s talented pianist brother, Gus, has a new teacher, Will, and he has taken a special interest in Lucy, asking her questions such as “What do you love?” and encouraging her to find the fun in music again. As she and Will grow closer, their relationship begins to cross lines, and she eventually wonders if Will has her best intentions at heart—a question that’s perhaps not fleshed out enough in the novel’s end. But Zarr (*Story of a Girl*, 2007) does what she does best. Writing in the third person, she really, truly gets inside her characters’ minds and shows us what makes them complex human beings—their faults, fears, and hopes. The supporting characters, from best friend Reyna to English teacher Mr. Charles, are also deeply drawn, and each provides insight as Lucy searches for her own sense of self. The novel itself is structured like a musical composition with three movements of varying tempos and the occasional intermezzo. This is a mellifluous novel about rekindling joy—in music, in the everyday, and in the beauty around us. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** Zarr’s *Story of a Girl* was a National Book Award finalist, and her books are consistently met with multiple starred reviews. A national author tour kicks off the publication of her latest. Grades 9-12.

--Ann Kelley

Review

"An elegant novel...Zarr vividly develops the title character, illuminating Lucy's teenage insecurities, her close and fractious friendships and the coming-of-age realization that she can pursue her dreams on her own terms...A rewarding journey for readers."? ***The New York Times Book Review***

"This book has so much depth and character that it stays with you like actual memories. I love how Sara Zarr can make you laugh and cry on the same page, and I think this is her best book yet."? ***James Dashner, New York Times* bestselling author of *The Maze Runner* (Metro New York)**

* "[Zarr] really, truly gets inside her characters' minds and shows us what makes them complex human beings -- their faults, fears, and hopes...This is a mellifluous novel about rekindling joy -- in music, in the everyday, and in the beauty around us."? ***Booklist, starred review***

* "Zarr doesn't waste a word in this superb study of a young musical prodigy trying to reclaim her life....[Lucy is] a deeply real and sympathetic character, and that dimensionality extends to the rest of the cast. The pressures Lucy is under feels powerful, immediate, and true -- her journey of self-discovery will strike a profound chord with readers."? ***Publishers Weekly, starred review***

* "The combination of sympathetic main character and unusual social and cultural world makes this satisfying coming-of-age story stand out."? ***Kirkus Reviews, starred review***

* "Exploring relationships is where Zarr soars . . . This strong coming-of-age story about music, passion, and the search for identity will appeal to longtime fans of Zarr's work and newcomers alike."? ***SLJ, starred review***

"A satisfying coming-of-age story and a thoughtful treatise on art, identity, and personal fulfillment."? ***The***

Horn Book

"[A] gripping YA novel about a 16-year-old music prodigy trying to survive the cutthroat world of piano competitions." *?InStyle*

About the Author

Sara Zarr was raised in San Francisco, California, and now lives with her husband in Salt Lake City, Utah. She is the author of *How to Save a Life*, *What We Lost*, *Sweethearts*, and the National Book Award finalist *Story of a Girl*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Shaw:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or maybe read a book titled The Lucy Variations? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have various other opinion?

Troy Harlow:

Why? Because this The Lucy Variations is an unordinary book that the inside of the e-book waiting for you to snap that but latter it will zap you with the secret it inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who also write the book in such remarkable way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book possess such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I had been you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

Thomas Woods:

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April Robles:

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