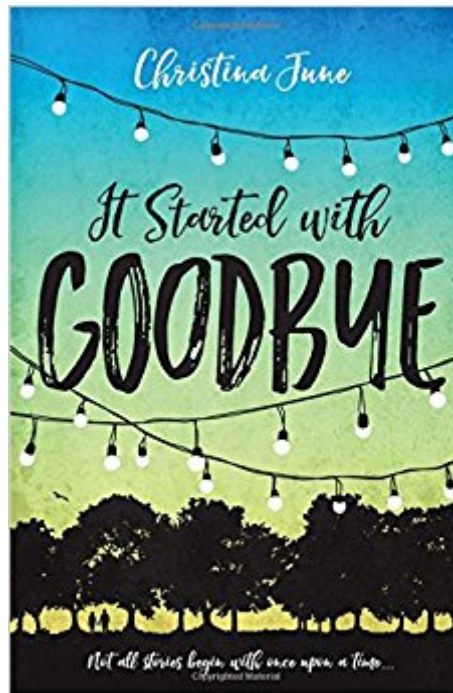




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# It Started With Goodbye (Blink)



## Synopsis

Sixteen-year-old Tatum Elsea is bracing for the worst summer of her life. After being falsely accused of a crime, she's stuck under stepmother-imposed house arrest and her BFF's gone ghost. Tatum fills her newfound free time with community service by day and working at her covert graphic design business at night (which includes trading emails with a cute cello-playing client). When Tatum discovers she's not the only one in the house keeping secrets, she finds she has the chance to make amends with her family and friends. Equipped with a new perspective, and assisted by her feisty step-abuela/fairy-godmother, Tatum is ready to start fresh and maybe even get her happy ending along the way. A modern play on the Cinderella story arc, *IT STARTED WITH GOODBYE* shows us that sometimes going after what you want means breaking the rules. *IT STARTED WITH GOODBYE* will appeal to fans of Sarah Dessen, Stephanie Perkins, and Jennifer E. Smith.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"You won't be able to put this book down. This heartfelt read totally sucked me in. A (Prince) Charming read." - Miranda Kenneally, author of *Catching Jordan* "Honest, fun, and entirely compelling, this is a story about how being in the wrong place at the wrong time can lead to a whole lot of right. Tatum is a character you'll relate to, cheer for, and want to befriend." - Laurie Elizabeth Flynn, author of *Firsts* "Tatum's complex and realistic

relationships with her friends, family and the potential love interest will have you savoring every chapter while heavily anticipating the next. "It Started With Goodbye is an adorable and clever contemporary that will enthrall you with its fairytale-esque charm." - Ami Allen-Vath, author of *Liars and Losers Like Us* "I loved this fun, contemporary take on the Cinderella tale that explores what it takes to be yourself while finding your place in life, love, and your family. June's characters are vividly drawn, complex people that you'll want to root for, and Tatum's story will strike a chord for anyone who's felt like they were misunderstood." - Lisa Maxwell, author of *Unhooked*, *Sweet Unrest* and *Gathering Deep* "A sweet and satisfying portrait of family, friendship, and discovering your own path. Tatum's journey from fear and disappointment to honesty and freedom to be herself is one that will resonate with many readers." - Ashley Herring Blake, author of *Suffer Love* "A fresh, charming debut, brimming with friendship, family, and love." - Marci Lyn Curtis, author of *The One Thing* Sixteen-year-old Tatum Elsea is bracing for the worst summer of her life. After being falsely accused of a crime, she's stuck under stepmother-imposed house arrest and her BFF's gone ghost. Tatum fills her newfound free time with community service by day and working at her covert graphic design business at night (which includes trading emails with a cute cello-playing client). When Tatum discovers she's not the only one in the house keeping secrets, she finds she has the chance to make amends with her family and friends. Equipped with a new perspective, and assisted by her feisty step-abuela/fairy-godmother, Tatum is ready to start fresh and maybe even get her happy ending along the way. A modern play on a Cinderella theme, 'It Started with Goodbye' shows us that sometimes going after what you want means breaking the rules. An unfailingly entertaining and thoroughly engaging read from cover to cover, 'It Started with Goodbye' is highly recommended for personal reading lists, as well as high school and community library YA Fiction collections. It should be noted that 'It Started with Goodbye' is also available in a Kindle format (\$7.99). (Children's Bookwatch) "You won't be able to put this book down. This heartfelt read totally sucked me in." (Miranda Kenneally, bestselling author of *Catching Jordan*) "Tatum's complex and realistic relationships with her friends, family, and a potential love interest will have you savoring every chapter while heavily anticipating the next. It Started with Goodbye is an adorable and clever contemporary that will enthrall you with its fairytale-esque charm." (Ami Allen-Vath, author of *Liars and Losers Like Us*) "Honest, fun, and entirely compelling, this is a story about how being in the wrong place at the wrong time can lead to a whole lot of right. Tatum is a character you'll relate to, cheer for, and want to befriend." (Laurie Elizabeth Flynn, author of *Firsts*) "[A] fun, contemporary take on the Cinderella tale that explores what it takes to be yourself while finding your

place in life, love, and your family. June's characters are vividly drawn, complex people that you'll want to root for, and Tatum's story will strike a chord for anyone who's felt like they were misunderstood. (Lisa Maxwell, author of *Unhooked*, *Sweet Unrest*, and *Gathering Deep*) "A sweet and satisfying portrait of family, friendship, and discovering your own path. Tatum's journey from fear and disappointment to honesty and freedom to be herself is one that will resonate with many readers. (Ashley Herring Blake, author of *Suffer Love*)

After being falsely accused of a crime, Tatum is faced with a summer of community service. To make matters worse, her best friend is not speaking to her, and she is being kept under her stepmother's watchful eye. Looking for a way to be herself again after this tailspin, Tatum secretly starts a graphic design business. With a new friendship blossoming at her community service project, a flirty e-mail correspondence with a client, and a supportive stepgrandmother, Tatum's summer begins to turn around. In this modern take on *Cinderella*, Tatum embarks on a summer of learning, during which she tries to figure out who she is and to understand different points of view, leading to a changed perception of her family. While a few references feel dated and some of the supporting cast underdeveloped, Tatum's journey of understanding and self-reflection is relatable and appealing. Steer readers who enjoy the updated fairy tale angle toward this book and follow with Ashley Poston's *Geekarella* (2017). A nice addition where contemporary fiction is popular.--- Sarah Bean Thompson (Booklist)

"An unfailingly entertaining and thoroughly engaging read from cover to cover | highly recommended. (Midwest Book Review)

"Christina June's contemporary retelling of *Cinderella* is a delightful debut that addresses family, friendship, trust, and going for what you really want. A lovely story that's full of heart. Lauren Gibaldi, author of *The Night We Said Yes* (Lauren Gibaldi)

"With an adorably charming heroine and a swoon-worthy love interest, Christina June has created true YA perfection. Heather Van Fleet, author of the *Reckless Hearts* series (Heather Van Fleet)

Christina June writes young adult contemporary fiction when she's not writing college recommendation letters during her day job as a school counselor. She loves the little moments in life that help someone discover who they're meant to become--whether it's her students or her characters. Christina is a voracious reader, loves to travel, eats too many cupcakes, and hopes to one day be bicoastal--the east coast of the US and the east coast of Scotland. She lives just outside Washington, D.C., with her husband and daughter.

I'm a HUGE fan of Cinderella stories and this was no disappointment, in the least. I enjoyed the differences, as this was not a straight up retelling, but loved the Cinderella-ness down to the core. The romance was sweet, 100% clean, and had me grinning like a fool throughout all of it- whether it be the emails or when they're actually together. I'd highly recommend this story for anyone who loves a funny and lovable teenage heroine who just needs a break once in awhile... and an awesome grandma who plays as her fairy godmother! I couldn't put this book down and that's the best review I can leave. \*No cuss words and it's still an amazing book! Other authors should take note.

Rating 4.5 out of 5 IT STARTED WITH GOODBYE is a wonderful summer read. It's charming and heartwarming and funny. It was a fast, enjoyable read, and left me with a giant smile on my face. Before starting IT STARTED WITH GOODBYE, I didn't realize how much I would have in common with Tatum. I once found myself in a similar situation of being an unknowing participant) and could completely understand her feelings of injustice, but also shame. I often felt that Tatum was given a raw deal, so I was happy to cheer for her when something went her way. What I liked: \*Abby - She was a good friend to Tatum and came into her life at just the right time - when she needed a friend, someone who hand her back, the most. One of my favorite lines "You're good people, Tatum," she said. \*The wise "feisty step-abuela-slash-fairy-godmother" Blanche. She offered insight, perspective, and love to Tatum. She made the unbearable moments more bearable. \*The online friendship/flirtation with SK. It was fun to read their cute back and forth emails and also witness their vulnerability. Their connection was sweet. \*Seeing the growth of the family and all of the amazing things that can happen when they finally take the time to have the difficult conversations and try to understand each other AND JUST LOOK THIS COVER! I LOVE IT. It is so pretty and it is what drew me to the book in the first place. Favorite Quotes: It was Abby's turn to grasp my shoulder in solidarity. "We should start a club." "The loser club?" "How about the Missed Opportunities Club?" "I love the camaraderie between Tatum and Abby." "Nothing is immovable, Tatum. Everything is negotiable." I smirked and nodded at the TV. "Did you learn that from The Golden Girls?" She smiled back. "It might have been The Facts of Life." The connection to The Golden Girls was a nice touch (I love that show) and then to mention The Facts of Life (another favorite from back in the day) made it even better. IT STARTED WITH GOODBYE is a fun summer read. If you like stories about blended

families, friendships, and want a happily ever after, then this book may be for you!

I must admit that I was at first hesitant about the book because the book description did not seem that appealing. But after reading the first two chapters, I found myself not being able to put the book down. I found Tatum to be witty and understandable with her own version of teenage angst, which thankfully was not overdone or drawn out to such an extent that I would find her annoying. I enjoyed seeing her relationships flourish with her step-sister and new friends (and a romantic interest!). Also, as a lover of the arts, I was delighted by all the music, art, and dance information. If you enjoy young adult literature, give this book a try.

This is a sweet and thoughtful YA romance you need for summer reading! Tatum takes on her "evil-stepmother" and a summer of house arrest and still wins the day. She's thoughtful with just the right amount of sass. I loved that Tatum's Cinderella story is not just a romance. She uses her brains and has great girlfriends - and can find time to flirt with a mysterious boy!

Simply put, I adored this book. Tatum's struggles are believable and not too easily solved. Her relationship with her family is complicated and beautifully emotional. And Shay. Oh, Shay. He's the perfect combo of swoony and sweet! Highly recommend.

A sweet modern Cinderella story. A light read for when you want to feel good at the end of your book. The romance had the sweetness of innocent teenage love while building a stronger basis for why the characters like each other-- as opposed to Disney's love-at-first-sight-I'll-marry-whomever-fits-these-shoes. Really? Shoe size? But the romance here is believable and sweet.

I loved this book! In her debut novel, Christina June presents a beautiful storyline with the complexities of family and peer relationships and teenage angst and uncertainty woven into a modern retelling of Cinderella. I can't wait to share it with students in the school division where I work. It is with great anticipation that I await her next book! Ben fatto! (A job well done!)

Very sweet book. I read it very quickly. Very well written and nice character development.

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