



Dream Family

J.J. DiBenedetto

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"Why is this so hard for me? Why am I having so much trouble? Why do I feel so helpless, so hopeless? What the hell is wrong with me?"

After tangling with murders and mobsters, not to mention medical school and three years of residency, Sara thought she could handle anything. And then the police show up without warning at her new office and arrest her for a crime she can't possibly have committed. Sara's confidence, and her grip on reality, is shattered during one terrifying night in jail.

Now, the very dreams that have endangered her life and driven her to the edge of madness may be the only thing that can help Sara find herself again...

"Dream Family" is the powerful fourth novel in the "Dreams" series.

Dream Family Details

Date : Published April 2014 (first published March 18th 2013)

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Author : J.J. DiBenedetto

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From Reader Review Dream Family for online ebook

Nicole says

Dr. Sara Alderson has a loving family and a wonderful career helping sick children feel better. However her life is turned upside down when the police show up at her office arresting her for prescription fraud. Sara is degraded and treated like the scum of the Earth as she is processed and forced to spend a night in jail. Forced to reach out for help, she calls the only man who would know the ins and outs of the justice system, Paul Sorrentino. When she is finally allowed to return to her family, Sara knows she is nothing more than a shell of her former self. Somehow through it all, it is her infamous dreams that may help rediscover her freedom.

Dream Family starts off with a bang, when the cops arrive for Sara and the pace never slows down. Sara is normally the heroine rushing around saving the everyone in her dreams, but this time it is herself that needs saving. The author does a compelling job with Sara's inner battles. Readers will both ache and cheer for Sara as she fights to remember who she is and what is most important in life. With a few new twists and turns from old minor characters, readers will be anxiously awaiting for the next book to be released. Another unique and powerful tale, with several life lessons thrown in for good measure.

I was speechless as I read this book, all I could think was wow, wow, Wow! Then to see that another adventure will be released sometime next year was beyond thrilling. If you want to read this series, plan on being wrapped up in the emotions of all the characters and soon you will feel as though you are a member of the family.

Notes:

The author provided a copy of this book for me to review.

This review was originally posted on Ariesgrl Book Reviews.

Karlee says

Now that Sara's mom can also dream hop, Sara has another person that can help her out. The only thing I find confusing is, why did Sara's dreams start in college, her daughter Lizzie's started when she was a child and her mom's started when she was well into her adult life. None of the dreams came at the same age. Other than that, this was a good story. Sara's life is shattered when she gets arrested at her place of business for prescribing prescription drugs when she shouldn't be. While she spends her time in jail, she goes through a torture that no one could imagine. She's given her one phone call but who is she supposed to call? Her partner Laurie already said that she would let Brian know and that they would get her a lawyer so she decides the best person to call is someone who would have jail experience. You guessed it, Mr. Paul Sorrentino. She basically sells her soul to him in promising that she would help his daughter Grace whenever she's needed and would even do house calls just so she can get the best lawyer there is. After all, Sara is innocent right? Sara and her mother have the same dream and they are able to find out who the real offender is, but will it be enough to clear Sara's name? Is there more to the story as to why Sara started dreaming of Paul before she went to jail, or is it just because she figured he would be the one to know a good lawyer? I will say that towards the end of the book I did get a little emotional. This story had many ups and downs. I'm excited to read the next book in this series.

Raquel Auriemma says

This one ripped my heart out. So much emotion and so many tears! But amazingly written.

Juyey says

This book got real! I hurt for Sara in this book, I really have become attached to this character, and what she went through just broke my heart. I cried a few times during this book, definitely my favourite book in the series so far.

K.C. Sprayberry says

Dr. Sara Alderson and her family relocate to Washington DC. She and her husband have been offered prime jobs in their professions. On the very first day of running her own pediatric practice with a friend, Sara is arrested for prescription fraud. The next two weeks are the worst of Sara's life, and she actually blocks out some of the deprecations she suffers.

J.J. DiBenedetto's incredible talent is very visible in this fourth installment of the Dreams series. He takes the reader through the shock of an inexplicable arrest, through the arrest and booking procedure an unprepared woman should never have to endure, to the healing process. But this healing process isn't without mountains to scale, and DiBenedetto handles the journey with great care.

Of all the Dreams books, this one is my favorite. Sara grows, both as a woman and as a doctor, as she fights for her sanity. Each word, each sentence, captures the essence of the characters. Not only is this book worth many reads, it has left me panting for the promised fifth book in the series.

Alyssa says

Well, that made me feel all the feels. I spent a lot of this book tearing up. Plus, anger and outrage. Sara gets arrested for something she didn't do. Being in jail for 24 hours breaks her, and I can't blame her for completely shutting down. But reading how Sara has to fix the part of her that broke was hard.

I have really gotten attached to all these characters.

Lauren says

this is book 4 in the series, and they do need to be read in order for better understanding. In this installment we follow them raising their three children and also a new struggle as soon as the new doctors office opens. we follow them on that struggled for most of the book it almost seemed overdone with all the flashbacks and trauma that was left. the end takes on a completely different note, one that you somewhat saw coming but then forgot about because it was never mentioned again. I listened to this book on audible and was surprised that he switched narrators. I had gotten used to hearing them as the other person and struggled with that transition especially how her mother sounded.

Donna Kober says

The entire series is good. Try one and see.

I am on the 7th book in a row and still enjoying them. More realistic than most books where characters have a unique gift.

Leta Fisher says

Great continuing book about a Doctor who has the worst thing in the world happen to her, not including the disturbing dreams.....

Mary says

This fourth book takes a turn in a different direction than the others. Sara is just beginning her career in her pediatric practice when things go completely wrong. She is arrested, wrongly accused of something she did not do. Still, she is locked up and the experience changes her, making her see the world differently and question herself. Sara has to face these challenges to come out on the other side or she may just crumble and lose everything she has worked so hard for all these years. This book moves very fast, you see an entirely new side to Sara and see the depth of the character that the author has created. There is also a background story that sneaks up on you and steals the thunder at the end of the book, something I did not see coming. This book is so full of emotion--have your tissues ready as Sara struggles through this dark chapter in her life. You don't want to miss this book! Like the others, you don't need to read the others to understand this book, but I strongly suggest you do. It just adds to the background of the characters and build up of the wonderful finale of the ending.

Karri says

good to the last drop!

Lee says

I just had the privilege of reading Dream Family by J.J. DiBenedetto and I must say this is one that really takes you into the head of the character. JJ was so descriptive that you felt like you were living in the story! Sara is very endearing as a character and I had so much sympathy for her in the beginning. The jail sequences and dream sequences were amazing and so true to life. I would have to literally force myself to put this book down because I would get caught up in the story. My favorite character was 5 year old Lizzie I must say. I loved her innocence and to the pointedness that reminds me of my daughter. JJ is an excellent

writer and this is actually the first book from his set that I have read and it is wonderful even if it was a standalone. I went into the dream sequences he wrote and thought Holy Jeppers whats going to happen next! All in all this is a very entertaining and interesting story that I truly enjoyed and would recommend to anyone! Reviewed by Lee Ryder of Fae Books

Stephen Walton says

An excellent story. Fourth book in this series JJ DiBenetto has taken a very "touchy" subject and made it into an enjoyable tale. The story follows Sara throughout but there are quite a few little twists to keep you wondering what might happen. The story has a good ending with plenty of "happy ever after ". Definitely a book that's worth having on its stand alone value as well as part of the series.

Kay (Brigidsmomma) Compton says

This one rates 5 stars as well, but the nature of what happens in this one to the MC makes this no longer a cozy... too violent and (although not graphic) disturbing to be considered cozy. Still, it works, and the character does need to go through this experience to help bring about some of the fuller features of her psychic abilities to the table. Not sure the series could continue if this one did not happen - or at least not as compellingly. A movingly difficult read, but one that I did enjoy, but would recommend with caution. Not all individuals would be able to handle the stuff she goes through even as well as she does (which she does struggle with rather much). I would recommend that those who do not tolerate violence or sexual disturbance well should NOT read this one. Not sure if you could continue the rest of the series without it - I'm not there yet, but will update this after the next book.

UPDATE:

I have completed the next to books in the series, and while some of the stuff is still darker than the usual cozy, I would say that, other than this one particular book which deals with some really tough stuff happening in the MC's life, all the books can still be considered cozy reads. You Could probably get by without reading this one, but you would loose a LOT of valuable insight into what makes the MC tick. Still one of the best series I've EVER read!

Sheila says

Dream Family is the fourth novel in author J. J. DiBenedetto's Dream Series, and it's the darkest one so far. It's also the deepest and most hauntingly real, making it a great addition to this family-oriented story that goes from strength to strength.

Sarah has always seemed such a strong, determined protagonist. Readers might imagine she can conquer every mountain, as might she. But now she starts to crack under the strain. Falsely accused, stripped from all she holds dear, she spirals into a depression that threatens to overwhelm everyone around her. Dreams that once called her to help others might hold the answer to how she can help herself. But maybe these others need help as well. And maybe in helping others she'll find the right path.

Several mysteries intertwine in this novel, with just enough hints for readers to guess the answers before Sarah does. But the novel's more than mystery, and more than tragedy. In the midst of it all, Sarah will learn

more about herself, in sickness and in health... and in dreams as well.

Great characters and relationships lift the novel above tragedy, add humor and pathos, and set the scene for more to come in the series. I really enjoyed this one and just wish I hadn't waited so long to read it.

Disclosure: I was given a free copy and I offer my honest review.
