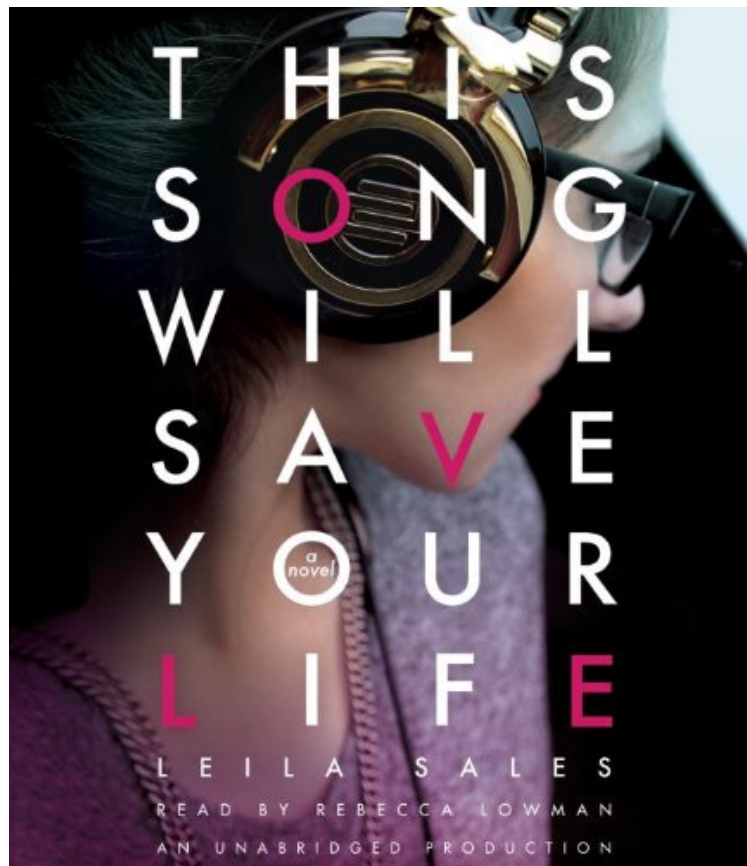


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This Song Will Save Your Life

Leila Sales

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Leila Sales : This Song Will Save Your Life before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised This Song Will Save Your Life:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. All the stars, not just 5 By Michelle Hazen This book came highly recommended, and as soon as I finished it, I emailed that person in all caps I LOVED IT! and then bought a copy for my 15 y/o goddaughter. This book is everything I needed to hear as a teenager, though it's never preachy or obvious. It's just a great story about a girl who wants friends and finds that being herself is not getting her friends the way her parents and motivational posters have always told her. She falls for a guy, and is a little puzzled at how he treats her. She tries her best, and things DO NOT WORK OUT FOR HER. What the heck were those motivational posters and guidance counselors thinking when they told her that would work? I loved the underground dance club culture of this book, and the love of music that pervades it. I love the "no really, this is life." feel of the book. It feels so honest and contemporary. And I love love love the ending. It's perfectly written, it's the perfect event, and when she finally has her breakthrough, I BELIEVE IT. She gets the ending she deserves, but not the way she expected, and I can't imagine anything better. All the stars for this book, not just 5.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Suicide

Requires the Perfect Playlist--Even If You Don't Really Mean It By Sarah @ MG YA Book Reviews Farrar, Strauss, Giroux, 2013. Once, at the start of her junior year of high school, Elise Dembrowski attempted suicide. The thing about committing suicide is you've got to have the right playlist, that is, you do if you're Elise Dembrowski. Elise's attempt doesn't succeed--she didn't mean for it to--but it does start her on a new path. When Elise returns to school, she gives up once and for all on school social life and launches herself more firmly into her music and the midnight walks that calm her. When one night she comes across an all night dance party, Elise finally finds a life in which she can be a star rather than a misfit, but she'll have to sneak around and deceive her parents to keep up her new lifestyle. Will Elise manage to make her new dreams come true? I loved this book about a high school misfit who finds her passion and ends up to be the coolest kid around. I think the story will resonate with many teens who are trying to navigate the waters of high school social pressures and life as a young adult. This one would make a great addition to personal, classroom, and library collections. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Like Looking in a Mirror By hanakinstar In high school, I was very similar to Elise. I was the weird, quiet girl in the back who read novels when she was supposed to be studying, and got in trouble for crocheting in class. I spent my lunches in the library most days. I didn't *want* to be alone, though. I desperately wanted to fit in, to be accepted, to belong. I dreamt of having a gaggle of girlfriends to gossip with over lunch and a boyfriend to cuddle and kiss and go on fun dates with. So from the first page of *This Song Will Save Your Life*, I felt like I was looking into a mirror to my past, and it definitely hurt. Unlike Elise, I did manage to keep one friend in high school, and I truly believe that we saved each other from a very dark fate. Elise doesn't even have that, however. Everyone picks on her, hates her, and basically treats her like s***. She basically spends the summer studying how to fit in--what kind of clothes to wear, what celebrities the cool girls talk about, how to do her hair and makeup "the right way". It backfires the first day back to school--she realizes that by trying to study up on what cool kids do, she's already turned herself into the awkward outsider once again. So after an awful lunch with the so-called "nice girls" who still exclude her and leave her to pick up all their trash, she decides to go home and kill herself. This first scene really resonated with me. A lot of the time, there isn't one big thing that makes someone want to die. It's all the little things, the ones that build and build on each other until that last straw--the one that breaks the camel's back, so to speak--finally pushes you over the edge. I truly felt for Elise. To me, she felt more like a real teen than a lot of other novels I've read lately. I just wanted to reach in and give her a hug. I loved her transformation over the course of the book. Her love of music and DJing is what helps her open up and finally make some friends that love her for who she really is, not who she's pretending to be. There were a couple things that bugged me--I didn't like the way she treated her dad or her little sister-- but they still seemed like a true teen reaction to me. Also, I had a hard time believing a girl so young was able to get in to Start without once showing her ID. I also didn't care for Char much, but I think that was intentional. However, none of that took away from my enjoyment of the story and watching Elise finally embrace who she is. *This Song Will Save Your Life* is a powerful novel, and I think it could give hope to those out there like me, the ones who've always felt like they didn't quite belong.

Making friends has never been Elise Dembrowski's strong suit. All throughout her life, she's been the butt of every joke and the outsider in every conversation. When a final attempt at popularity fails, Elise nearly gives up. Then she stumbles upon a warehouse party where she meets Vicky, a girl in a band who accepts her; Char, a cute, yet mysterious disc jockey; Pippa, a carefree spirit from England; and most importantly, a love for DJing. Told in a refreshingly genuine and laugh-out-loud funny voice, Leila Sales' *THIS SONG WILL SAVE YOUR LIFE* is an exuberant novel about identity, friendship, and the power of music to bring people together. Includes a PDF playlist of recommended music.

From Booklist *Starred* Elise Dembrowski will not be unfamiliar to readers. The girl most likely to be picked on. A halfhearted suicide attempt. Broken family, no friends, no future. But then something happens. While wandering the streets one night, Elise comes across a warehouse party. The joint is jumping, and to Elise's amazement, some of the people there are interested in her. Vicky, a singer, takes Elise under her wing, and Char, the amazing DJ, takes her to bed. But Char does something for Elise that's more important than making her feel attractive: he tutors her in the art of DJing, and, it turns out, Elise is a natural. So much so that she soon outshines her mentor. What sets this apart from so many problem novels is how honestly and deeply Sales probes the life of a miserable 16-year-old, from her cringe-worthy attempt at learning how to be popular to the observational, rather than emotional, look at what it feels like to be with a guy. Readers will be fascinated and touched by the first-person voice because of what is roiling beneath it. Whether Elise is cynical, despairing, or even exhilarated, her hurt and confusion are the feelings that underlie everything, and teens will connect with her viscerally. That Elise finds something that awakens and restores her will also give readers hope. Grades 7-10. --Ilene Cooper The emotional resonance of Elise's journey . . . feels very much of the moment. The New York Times Pulsates with hope for all the misfits. Kirkus s, starred review Readers will be fascinated and touched by the first-person voice because of what is roiling beneath it. . . . Teens will connect with [Elise] viscerally. Booklist, starred review Sales gets everything right. MTV.com A wild, witty, funny, thumping good

read. Adele Griffin, two-time National Book Award Finalist Edgy and irresistible. If this book were a song, I'd have it on repeat with the volume all the way up. Sarah Mlynowski, author of *Ten Things We Did (and Probably Shouldn't Have)* A perfect harmony of laugh-out-loud moments, heartbreak, and hope. Eileen Cook, author of *Getting Revenge on Lauren Wood* A vibrant, powerful dance party of a novel. Jess Rothenberg, author of *The Catastrophic History of You and Me* A remarkable story about the power of truth, friendship, and music to transform us, to inspire us, to guide us back to who we are. Rebecca Serle, author of *When You Were Mine* A sweet, funny story about finding yourself in a crowd, owning your talents, and rocking out on the dance floor of life. Madeleine George, author of *The Difference Between You and Me* Heartbreaking, heartfelt, and eventually heart-lifting, this YA novel is one I won't soon forget. If you're a music junkie who also loves YA, read it alongside Len Vlahos's *The Scar Boys* or Rainbow Rowell's *Eleanor Park*. Janet Geddis, Avid Bookshop A YALSA Best Book for Young Adults A BuzzFeed Best YA Book of the Year A CCBC Choice About the Author Leila Sales is the author of the novels *Mostly Good Girls*, *Past Perfect*, and *This Song Will Save Your Life*. She grew up outside of Boston, Massachusetts, and graduated with a degree in psychology from the University of Chicago. Much like the characters in *This Song Will Save Your Life*, Leila regularly stays up too late and listens to music too loud. When she's not writing, she spends her time thinking about sleeping, kittens, chocolate, and the meaning of life. But mostly chocolate. Leila lives and writes in Brooklyn, New York, and works in children's book publishing. Follow her @LeilaSalesBooks on Twitter.