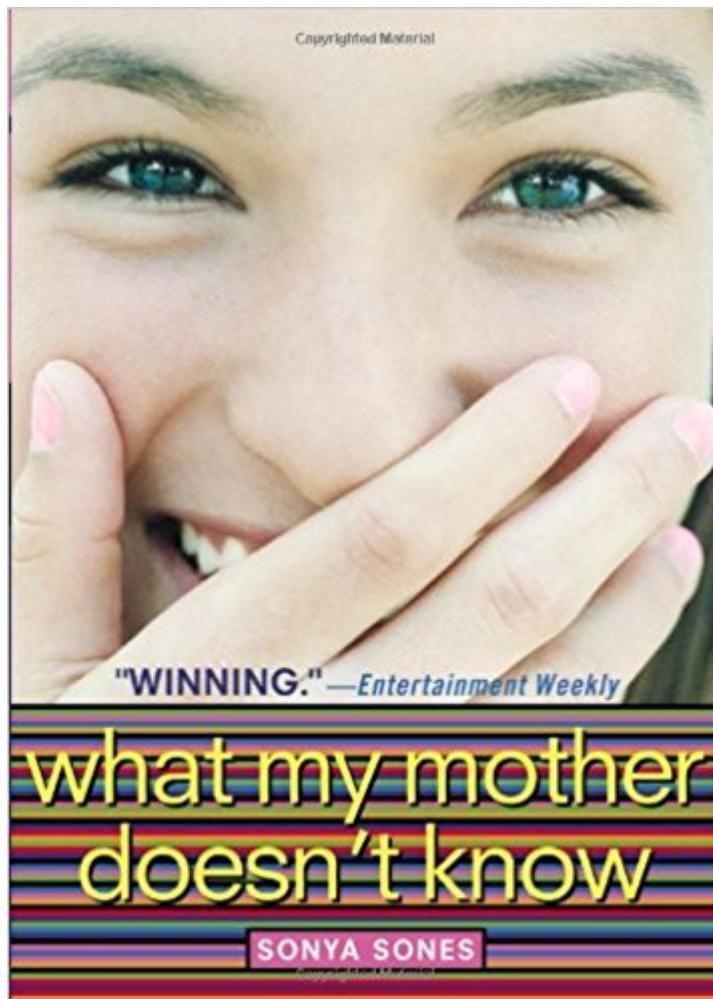


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# What My Mother Doesn't Know



## **Synopsis**

My name is Sophie. This book is about me. It tells the heart-stoppingly riveting story of my first love. And also of my second. And, okay, my third love, too. It's not that I'm boy crazy. It's just that even though I'm almost fifteen I've been having sort of a hard time trying to figure out the difference between love and lust. It's like my mind and my body and my heart just don't seem to be able to agree on anything.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing; 1st edition (October 1, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0689841140

ISBN-13: 978-0689841149

Product Dimensions: 8.7 x 5.7 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 273 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #603,344 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #91 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Poetry #1131 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Being a Teen #1155 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Dating & Sex

## **Customer Reviews**

Meet Sophie. She sees herself as the too-tall "Mount Everest of teenage girls," who, along with her friends, often suffers from "lackonookie disease." She's dating smoky, sexy Dylan, covertly chatting online with "cybersoul"-mate Chaz, and secretly nursing a crush on sweet, geeky Murphy. Her two best friends are closer to her than sisters, and she "hates hating" her soap opera-addicted mom, wishing "she would show half as much interest in my life as she does in Luke and Laura's." In other words, Sophie is a typical teenage girl. What is not so typical is how author Sonia Sones records all of Sophie's thoughts in a freewheeling verse that is such a naked outpouring of inner longing, most readers will blush in embarrassed recognition of their own remembered or current teenage desires. Sones gently leads both the reader and Sophie towards an understanding of the difference between love and lust as Sophie slowly comes to realize that Dylan's outsides are no match for Murphy's insides. Autobiographical of Sones, perhaps? The author claims it isn't so, and she's probably right. With her frank manner, lusty thoughts, and hidden insecurities, Sophie reflects many teenage girls,

past and present. No woman will be able to read this heartfelt verse novel and not find a bit of herself in Sophie's secret, sexy thoughts. Sones's decadent, almost shamefully delicious collection of angst poems is a loving and amazingly accurate tribute to adolescent girlhood. (Ages 12 and older) --Jennifer Hubert

**\*Starred Review\*** Drawing on the recognizable cadences of teenage speech, Sones (*Stop Pretending*) poignantly captures the tingle and heartache of being young and boy-crazy. The author keenly portrays ninth-grader Sophie's trajectory of lusty crushes and disillusionment whether she is gazing at Dylan's "smoldery dark eyes" or dancing with a mystery man to music that "is slow/ and/ saxophony." Best friends Rachel and Grace provide anchoring friendships for Sophie as she navigates her home life as an only child with a distant father and a soap opera-devotee mother whose "shrieking whips around inside me/ like a tornado." Some images of adolescent changes carry a more contemporary cachet, "I got my period I prefer/ to think of it as/ rebooting my ovarian operating system," others are consciously cliché, "my molehills/ have turned into mountains/ overnight" this just makes Sophie seem that much more familiar. With its separate free verse poems woven into a fluid and coherent narrative with a satisfying ending, Sophie's honest and earthy story feels destined to captivate a young female audience, avid and reluctant readers alike. Ages 12-up.

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"What My Mother Doesn't Know" is a very good and intriguing quick read. The book is written in verse, from the same point of view the entire time. The main character, Sophie, is the narrator; she writes about love, boys, friends, and family. She is going through a tough time at home and deals with break ups, crushes and the struggles of the teenage years. This book is definitely geared towards young women, but is not limited to that. Kids from the age of 13 and up would enjoy and relate to the book. The only downside to this book is that it is so brief that there isn't really a strong plot. Although the plot is weak/not really there, as a teenage girl, I really enjoyed the book. It was very relatable to my life and entertaining to read. It's a great book that you can't put down. I definitely recommend it!!

I wasn't sure what to expect from this book. The author is super nice in person so I knew I had to give it a chance. I wasn't expecting to much when I started but man Sonya Sones changed that very fast. Such a great book! Sophie can never make up her mind, but it makes for a interesting read. I can't wait to read the next in the series.

I prefer poetry that tells a story, like Hiawatha or Canterbury Tales. I enjoy some of Billy Collins free verse, but on average most is unmemorable because as a whole they don't tell a story or have a theme. I only bookmarked 3 of Sones' poems, but as a whole I enjoyed the story. This was good use of free verse, moving the story along by crystalizing one idea and mood at a time, allowing the story to be stopped or started again as easily as a Vonnegut story. Some reviewers complain that the story is inappropriate. I rate it PG 13, not because of any offensive content, but because hitting puberty seems a reasonable prerequisite. If your kids saw Transformers, they've been exposed to worse. I feel I got lucky in 2013 choosing this book for Natl. Poetry Month.

I was working on my Top Ten Self Published Bestsellers post and came across this little gem, shown as a mover and a shaker. It was originally published in 2003, and I thought I would read the excerpt and see what all the fuss was about. (I think it's because it was because it was on sale for 99 cents.) I bought it right away and read it in just a few hours. It's written in prose or is it poetry (?) style. It's a really cute, clean book for young adults and I'm so glad I read it. The voice is believable and funny. There are a few memorable quotes in the book that made me giggle a little. This book just proves that the heart knows what the brain doesn't always seem to be able to figure out. Even at fifteen! Definitely worth the read.

I read this for a university class. The book was good. is great alternative for purchasing school books.

I have to admit that I put off reading this book for ages. A YA novel in verse? Blech, right? But the reviews finally convinced me to give this a try, and I'm so glad I did. I have no idea how the author managed to make a book so light, sweet, rich and full all at the same time. The verse isn't pretentious or tedious in the least -- it goes down smooth and easy, making every moment pop bright and clear. And it brought back memories of my first love so vividly it made my heart hurt (in a nice way). I think my only complaint is that the girl on the cover looks nothing like I pictured, and the overall cover design doesn't quite suit the mood of the book. But that, obviously, is just a nit-pick. Amazing!

Sophie's pig of a mother doesn't know anything because she numbs out watching tv and eating chocolate all the time. Sophie could probably say "I gave my boyfriend oral sex last night" and her

mother would just grunt. But there isn't really much to hide. Sophie is a "nice Jewish girl." She's adorable. She thinks about sex. Duh! The book is written in free verse. Some reviewers have complained that it isn't great poetry. No, it is a teen girl writing her thoughts in poetry. It isn't supposed to be great poetry. Sophie's mother really angered me. She went into a huge ugly guilt trip because Sophie secretly wore a slinky black dress to a halloween party instead of the stupid dress her mother wanted her to wear. Believe me, any parent whose teenager didn't do anything worse than that should get down on her knees and thank the universe.

When I first started this book, I was a bit annoyed that there were not full pages and long chapters like I usually like to read. Yet I kept reading because I was going to try it. I'm glad I did. The book was beautifully written and heartbreakingly honest at the same time, you'll want to laugh, cry and maybe even cry through this story across the room (unless you're reading this on a kindle like myself) It was a great story and had your head turning with thoughts at the end. I would highly suggest reading it.

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