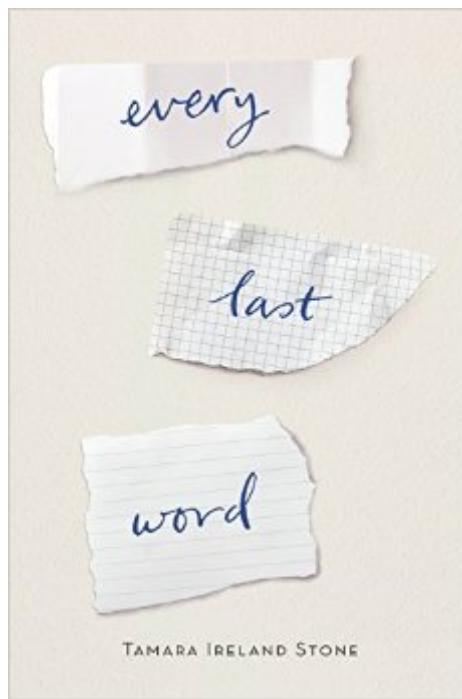


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# Every Last Word



## Synopsis

New York Times Bestseller If you could read my mind, you wouldn't be smiling.Samantha McAllister looks just like the rest of the popular girls in her junior class. But hidden beneath the straightened hair and expertly applied makeup is a secret that her friends would never understand: Sam has Purely-Obsessional OCD and is consumed by a stream of dark thoughts and worries that she can't turn off. Second-guessing every move, thought, and word makes daily life a struggle, and it doesn't help that her lifelong friends will turn toxic at the first sign of a wrong outfit, wrong lunch, or wrong crush. Yet Sam knows she'd be truly crazy to leave the protection of the most popular girls in school. So when Sam meets Caroline, she has to keep her new friend with a refreshing sense of humor and no style a secret, right up there with Sam's weekly visits to her psychiatrist.Caroline introduces Sam to Poet's Corner, a hidden room and a tight-knit group of misfits who have been ignored by the school at large. Sam is drawn to them immediately, especially a guitar-playing guy with a talent for verse, and starts to discover a whole new side of herself. Slowly, she begins to feel more "normal" than she ever has as part of the popular crowd . . . until she finds a new reason to question her sanity and all she holds dear.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 750 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 368 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 1.2 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (169 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #23,735 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Depression & Mental Illness #71 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction #187 inÂ Books > Teens > Romance > Contemporary

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## Customer Reviews

\*\*\*Review posted on The Eater of Books! blog\*\*\*Every Last Word by Tamara Ireland Stone

Publisher: Disney-Hyperion Publication Date: June 16, 2015 Rating: 4 stars Source: ARC sent by the publisher

Summary (from Goodreads): If you could read my mind, you wouldn't be smiling. Samantha McAllister looks just like the rest of the popular girls in her junior class. But hidden beneath the straightened hair and expertly applied makeup is a secret that her friends would never understand: Sam has Purely-Obsessional OCD and is consumed by a stream of dark thoughts and worries that she can't turn off. Second-guessing every move, thought, and word makes daily life a struggle, and it doesn't help that her lifelong friends will turn toxic at the first sign of a wrong outfit, wrong lunch, or wrong crush. Yet Sam knows she'd be truly crazy to leave the protection of the most popular girls in school. So when Sam meets Caroline, she has to keep her new friend with a refreshing sense of humor and no style a secret, right up there with Sam's weekly visits to her psychiatrist. Caroline introduces Sam to Poet's Corner, a hidden room and a tight-knit group of misfits who have been ignored by the school at large. Sam is drawn to them immediately, especially a guitar-playing guy with a talent for verse, and starts to discover a whole new side of herself. Slowly, she begins to feel more "normal" than she ever has as part of the popular crowd . . . until she finds a new reason to question her sanity and all she holds dear.

What I Liked: I'm actually surprised by how much I liked this one. I didn't really know what to expect.

Let me start by saying that Disney-Hyperion is fast becoming one of my favorite publishers. I can't recall reading a book of theirs that I didn't enjoy. It's gotten to the point where I request their titles on blind faith, even if the description doesn't sound like my style, and their books still satisfy me. This book was no exception. Sam is an excellent character, terribly, painfully introspective at times but with so much promise. There were times I felt frustrated by her. "Really?" I wanted to say. "You're having a panic attack over that?" But isn't that the thing about people? One person's mountain is another person's molehill, and this book captures that perfectly. I loved Sam's relationship with her mom, the way that the inside of her mind is almost the exact opposite of the rest of her, and how she struggles to match her lifestyle to her true self over the course of the book. There are some excellent depictions of OCD in here, and Sam's relationship with Sue (her therapist) is one of the most special ones in the book. It's touching and heartbreakingly honest to hear Sam wonder what it's like to be "normal" and to find someone who will love her, "broken brain" and all. My eyes filled with tears as I saw how lonely she was and how hard it was for her to finally embrace her brain for its strengths while fighting against its weaknesses. I saw so much of myself in her, and it was heartbreakingly honest at times but also

so amazingly accurate and true and real. One of my favorite quotes: "And I want to stop, but I can't, because telling someone with OCD to stop obsessing about something is like telling someone who's having an asthma attack to just breathe normally." Also, can we talk about AJ for a minute? What a beautiful character.

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