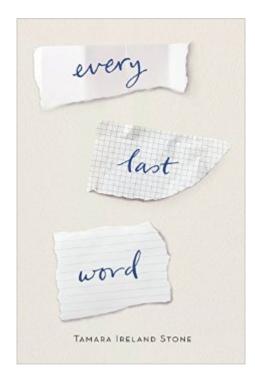
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# **Every Last Word**





## 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 Publisher: Disney-Hyperion (June 16, 2015) Language: English ISBN-10: 1484705270 ISBN-13: 978-1484705278 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 stars Â See all reviews (169 customer reviews) Best Sellers Rank: #23,735 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Depression & Mental Illness #71 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction #187 in 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 StonePublisher: Disney-HyperionPublication Date: June 16, 2015Rating: 4 starsSource: ARC sent by the publisherSummary (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 canâ <sup>TM</sup>t recall reading a book of theirs that I didnâ <sup>TM</sup>t enjoy. Itâ <sup>TM</sup>s gotten to the point where I request their titles on blind faith, even if the description doesnâ <sup>TM</sup>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. â œReally?â • I wanted to say. â œYouâ <sup>TM</sup>re having a panic attack over that?â • But isnâ <sup>TM</sup>t that the thing about people? One personâ <sup>TM</sup>s mountain is another personâ <sup>TM</sup>s molehill, and this book captures that perfectly. I loved Samâ <sup>TM</sup>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 Samâ <sup>TM</sup>s relationship with Sue (her therapist) is one of the most special ones in the book. Itâ <sup>TM</sup>s touching and heartbreaking to hear Sam wonder what itâ <sup>TM</sup>s like to be â œnormalâ • and to find someone who will love her, â œbroken brainâ • 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 heartbreaking at times but also

so amazingly accurate and true and real.One of my favorite quotes:"And I want to stop, but I canâ <sup>™</sup>t, because telling someone with OCD to stop obsessing about something is like telling someone whoâ <sup>™</sup>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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