



*Every Last Word* by Tamara Ireland Stone  
Reviewed by Anushka



Young Adult, Fiction

### **Give a summary without spoilers!**

Samantha McAllister resembles the other popular girls in her junior high class in terms of appearance. However, there is a secret that her friends would never be able to decipher under the straightened hair and professionally applied makeup: Sam suffers from OCD, which causes her to be overcome by a constant stream of unsettling anxieties. Daily life is hard for her because she constantly questions every idea and action. It also doesn't help that her lifelong friends will dislike anyone at the first sign of something like the wrong lunch or the wrong outfit. Sam is aware that it would be insane for her to leave the safety of the most well-liked students. As a result, Sam needs to keep Caroline's existence—her new friend—a secret, right up there with Sam's monthly appointments with her psychiatrist. Sam is introduced by Caroline to "Poet's Corner," a secret room home to a close-knit community of outcasts who have been shunned by the rest of the school. Sam is drawn to them right away, especially a guitarist with a gift for poetry, and she begins to realize a completely different side of herself. She gradually starts to feel more "normal" than she ever has—until she discovers a new reason to doubt her sanity.

### **What drew you to this book?**

My friend recommended this book, and I was immediately drawn in by the interesting plot and how the characters were portrayed, especially with how the exploration of Sam's life was shown with her daily struggle to deal with her OCD.

### **Did it remind you of something that you've previously read?**

This book didn't remind me of anything specifically, but it shows how a seemingly normal teenager deals with OCD, which can be compared to other novels that deal with OCD or other mental illnesses.

### **To whom would you recommend this book?**

I would recommend this book to anyone who likes to read fictional young adult novels and to anyone who would like to read about overcoming daily struggles while also dealing with complex relationships.

**Overall, did you like it and would you recommend it to others?**

I did like this book, and I would definitely recommend it to others because the storyline kept me wanting to know more about the character, Sam, and her life and backstory, as well as how her relationships with the other characters were shown.

**Anything else that you would like to add to this review? What made you choose it? Did you like the cover? Was it recommended to you? Did you find it at the library?**

I thought the cover of this novel was interesting, which was the main reason why I decided to read it.