



Every Last Word

by Tamara Ireland Stone

Review by Natalie



Romance

What originally made you interested in reading/watching/playing this media? How did you hear about it or come across it?

I came across this book in my schools library, my teacher told my class to find a book to read for English and we would then have to write about it for our mid-term. I was interested in the book because from reading the little summary of it, I saw that it followed a love story between two people who were complete opposites. I knew by the sound of it I would enjoy this book, and my writing would give me the grade that I wanted in this class.

Is it part of a series? If so, what series is it?

No

What is this media about? Make sure to give enough interesting details without spoiling too much!

The main character, a girl named Samantha McAllister, struggles with hardcore OCD, which she attempts and chooses to keep hidden at all times. Sam is a junior in high school, and is a very popular girl in school, who is part of a group called "The Crazy Eights", who appears to live a perfect life to many people. Deep down she is living with OCD and has to constantly fight dark, and intrusive thoughts.

One day Sam meets AJ Olsen, this nerdy, not popular, quiet boy in school, and he introduces her to Poets Corner, a place where she can feel safe and express her feelings through poetry. Poets Corner changes her life, but a major plot twist hits and Sam has to re-think about her whole life. But what she doesn't know is that AJ has been secretly playing a key role in how she deals with her OCD, and the ways she is able to calm her OCD and live normally.

Who are the main characters? What makes them interesting or unique?

The first main character is Samantha McAllister, Sam is unique because struggling with OCD, or any kind of disorder is very tough, especially in high school. Sam is also part of a popular group of girls, and she calls these girls her best friends. But, something very interesting about Sam is that she is very honest to herself and to the fact that she is struggling with OCD. Even though she tries to hide it from others, she stays true to herself which ends up helping her significantly in the long run.

The second and final most important main character is AJ Olsen, he is unique because he is the "key master" of Poet's Corner, and he was the one that invited Sam into it. AJ also used to be bullied in elementary school, and he has used poetry and playing his guitar to transform his pain into sounds and lyrics. Something interesting about AJ is that he doesn't see Sam any differently just because she is struggling with OCD, he helps her embrace it through writing and stating poetry in Poet's Corner, which only strengthens their connection with one another.

Does this media remind you of anything else you've read/watched/played?

Yes, this media reminds me of other things that I've read and watched. Like, *The Summer I Turned Pretty* it follows romance, and is a connection between two people. I have also seen other things that include the importance of mental health, and how people have to learn to live with it, just like Sam did.

What type of person might enjoy this media? For example, this book is for someone who likes Percy Jackson, someone who enjoys getting scared, someone who likes a challenge, etc.

A person who might enjoy the book *Every Last Word* would be someone who likes YA fiction, someone who wants a strong message about mental health, and someone who likes the suspense of plot twists.

Did you like this media? Would you recommend it to others? Why or why not?

Yes, I liked this media. I would recommend it to others because it is a cute, good-length, and well written book. It symbolizes the importance of understating mental health, and how it can affect a persons everyday life. At the same time, it shows that people can find ways to calm themselves, and have a way to escape if they are struggling. It also symbolizes that someone the complete opposite of you, could end up becoming a very important person in your life, just like Sam and AJ.

Do you like the cover? Does it convey what the media is about?

I am not a huge fan of the cover of this book, even though it is very simple I have never fully understood the resemblance it has with the plot of the story. I believe it does convey what the book is about to a certain point, the little scraps of paper could resemble Sam's writing of her poems, and how she feels relief when she gets every word down. I think the addition of a small detail that is in the story could make the connection between the cover and the story a little stronger.

Do you have any last thoughts about this media that you would like to include in your review?