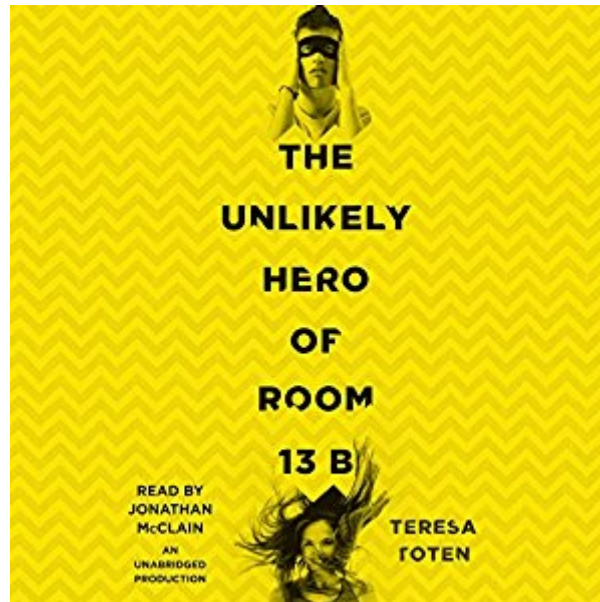




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The Unlikely Hero Of Room 13B



Synopsis

Deep, understated, and wise, this engaging YA novel, winner of the Governor General's Award in Canada, is about more than the tough issue of teens dealing with obsessive-compulsive disorder. It also has romance, and a whodunit element that will keep listeners guessing. Perfect for readers who love *Eleanor & Park*! Adam Spencer Ross is almost 15, and he's got his hands full confronting the everyday problems that come with having divorced parents and a stepsibling. Add to that his obsessive-compulsive disorder and it's just about impossible for him to imagine ever falling in love. Adam's life changes, however, the instant he meets Robyn Plummer: He is hopelessly, desperately drawn to her. But is it possible to have a normal relationship when your life is anything but? Filled with moments of deep emotion and unexpected humor, *The Unlikely Hero of Room 13B* explores the complexities of living with OCD and offers the prospect of hope, happiness, and healing.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

GRADE: A-4.5 STARS Adam, the youngest teen in his OCD support group falls hard and fast for new patient Robyn. At home, he juggles his mother's deteriorating mental health and his half-brother Sweetie's meltdowns only Adam can soothe. As Robyn recovers, Adam's condition worsens, making him worry he'll lose her forever. I adore Teresa Toten. *BEWARE THAT GIRL* is one of my all time favorite books. Toten's often humorous writing gave Adam a witty, insightful voice, capturing the essence of OCD remarkably well. I had no trouble loving and rooting for Adam.

My only issue with him, and with the entire book was Adam's obsession with Robyn and how the therapist never addressed the issue or departed the two teens. While Adam showed no signs of being a danger, obsessing over an individual can quickly escalate, especially in the face of rejection. Therapist Chuck had to balance addressing the issue with Adam and encouraging his client to feel open to addressing issues. I also don't think obsession is romantic or charming, it's creepy and scary. If not for this subplot, *THE UNLIKELY HERO OF ROOM 13B* would have been 5 stars. Because the potential danger was romanticized and not addressed, I dropped the rating to 4 stars and wouldn't recommend to anyone with people obsessions. Whether or not Adam became violent is less of an issue than the normalization of the obsession.

I only write reviews when I have to lay down a book that I never want to let go of. This story is brilliant, a page-turner in all the best ways. I ached for Adam, felt his pain, loved his goodness. All the characters are beautifully drawn, from Robyn, the love of his life, to his mentally ill mother, to the members of his OCD group and its counselor, Chuck. The pain is tempered with humor and love underlies the entire story. As a writer of young adult books, I know such work isn't easy and I admire the heck out of this writer.

This is a very well-written book that was surprisingly fun, sweet and deep. The story centers around Adam, a fifteen-year-old kid with OCD (Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder). At the start of the story he's joined a support group for fellow OCD sufferers and immediately falls in love with one of the other teenagers, Robyn. The following love story between the two of them is sweet and I enjoyed watching Robyn and Adam help each other with their own OCD problems. Adam is a great main character. He's sweet but constantly unsure of himself, full of anxiety and dealing with multiple problems at home (mostly surrounding his mother, who is dealing with her own compulsive hoarding and depression). Adam's OCD escalates as the book goes on, and he is constantly trying to manage it and hide it. I thought the author did a great job describing just how much OCD can affect a person's life and just how time-consuming it can be (describing, for example, how it would often take Adam fifteen minutes just to walk through his front door at home). I especially loved Adam's support group, which was filled with quirky characters who all form an unlikely friendship. At the beginning of the book each of the members takes on a superhero name, and so we hardly hear their real names. Instead we deal with the likes of people such as Wonder Woman, Thor, Wolverine and Batman. The antics of the OCD support group were always amusing and at the same time provided insight into the different aspects that OCD can have. This was, overall, a very sweet

coming-of-age story for Adam with a nice touch of romance and some great side characters. I really have no complaints about it, and it's a great story for anyone interested in learning about OCD.

This book stayed with me for days after I finished it! Engaging, likeable characters; dialogue that is both humorous and realistic; and spot-on portrayals of various OCD and anxiety-related manifestations and rituals. It was both fascinating and moving. I laughed and I cried, and I was actually sad when I reached the end of the book! Hoping for a sequel!

I bought this book for one of my students. I told her I would submit her review when she was finished. She gave it 4 1/2 stars. "It was a really good story. I enjoyed it greatly. However, I do not think the story was like *Eleanor & Park* at all except for the ending. If anything, it had more in common with *Looking for Alaska* than *Eleanor & Park*. Overall, I thought it was a great book and I'd recommend it."

This was quite an unusual book. . As an adult, I do enjoy some books written for a teenage audience but I had a hard time getting into this book ; the style was a bit choppy. But that was appropriate for the nature of the book. It actually added to the book. I gave it five stars, The choppy structure gave a feeling of something being off-kilter which was appropriate for this therapy group. Persevere until you get past the first of the book.

Good Read!

Wonderful and memorable characters. A great insight into OCD for the uninitiated, though, it seems doubtful that with any form of mental illness the pieces all fit together so neatly. Still, it is a heartwarming tale.

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