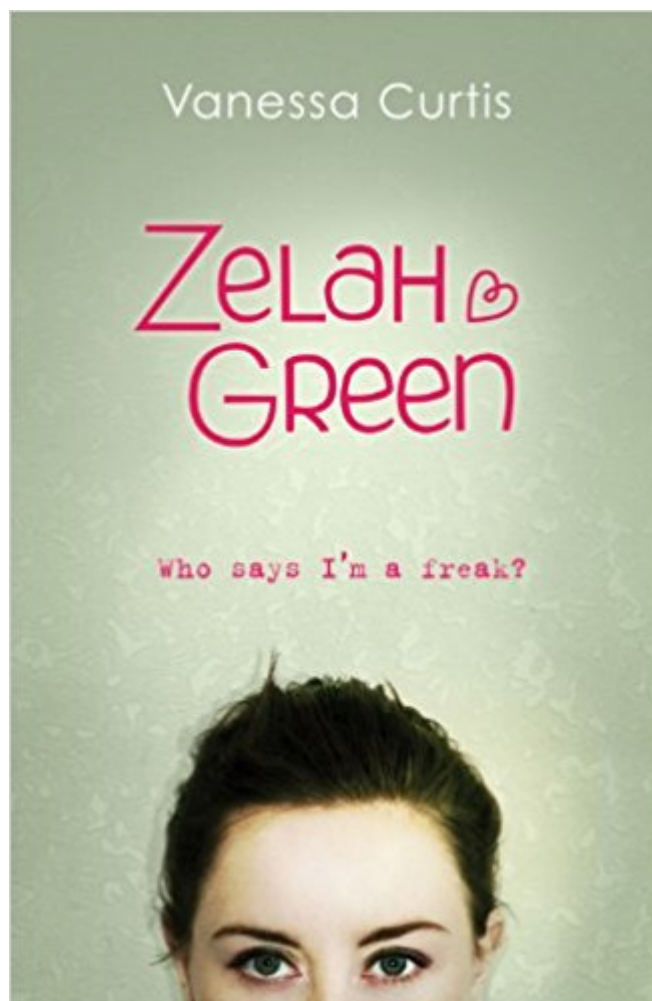


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# Zelah Green



## Synopsis

A prizewinning story of a girl whose serious OCD starts to take over her life, how she conquers it with help and humor, and the friends with their own troubles whom she meets along the way "My Name is Zelah Green and I'm a cleanaholic. I spend most of my life running away from germs. And dirt. And people. And I'm just about doing okay and then my stepmother packs me off to some kind of hospital to live with a bunch of strangers. It's stuck in the middle of nowhere. Great. There's Alice who's anorexic. Caro who cuts herself. Silent Sol who has the cutest smile. And then there's me." Zelah's candid voice allows serious issues to be explored with empathy. With wonderful humor supplementing the emotional heart, this story presents real problems for teenagers while never being heavy-handed.

## Book Information

Series: Zelah Green (Book 1)

Paperback: 250 pages

Publisher: Egmont UK; Original edition (October 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1405255056

ISBN-13: 978-1405255059

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #4,026,389 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #89 in Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Self Mutilation #484 in Books > Teens > Literature

& Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Suicide #1184 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction >

Social & Family Issues > Depression & Mental Illness

Age Range: 12 - 14 years

Grade Level: 7 - 9

## Customer Reviews

"With her light touch, convincing dialogue and sparky humour, [Curtis] makes self-harm, anorexia, attempted suicide, depression, cancer and alcoholism all palatable for a young audience without being patronising or employing self-improvement gobbledegook. She also makes it funny." Scotland on Sunday "reluctant readers will enjoy Zelah's conversational style, which keeps serious issues on the lighter side." Booklist "a highly accessible story with appeal for

reluctant readers." â "School Library Journal"unique, fast and grabbing...a great way to spend an afternoon."â ""Shut Up! I'm Reading" blog

Vanessa Curtis is a freelance journalist, the author of *The Hidden Houses of Virginia Woolf* and *Virginia Woolf's Women*, and the coeditor of the *Virginia Woolf Bulletin*. Her first book for children, *Zelah Green*, won the Manchester Children's Book Award and appeared on the Waterstone's Children's Book Prize shortlist.

I picked up *Zelah Green* on a complete whim. I'm a total sucker for realistic fiction, and OCD is a topic that I always feel drawn to for some reason. Coupled with the fact that it's set in the UK, I was always going to have to read this one. Although it's aimed at the younger end of the YA target age group, and therefore perhaps some of the issues are watered down a little, I thoroughly enjoyed the way that Curtis created her characters. Their problems are real, their personalities are big and distinct, and I loved all of them – whether they were lovable or not. *Zelah* is obsessed with cleaning. She also has a few other little rituals to start and end the day. But it's not really a big deal – her stepmother obviously disapproves but can't do anything about it, and her best friend totally gets it. It's only when her stepmother sends her to hospital that she really stops to look at what she is doing – but only because she has to. What I particularly liked about *Zelah* is that although she has a lot going on, she never really loses her sense of humour, nor her sense of self. She attempts to relate to the other people in the house where she ends up for treatment as much as possible, even if she doesn't quite understand why she is there – she doesn't get bratty or resentful, and is really very open to other people. *Zelah Green* is a super-quick read (I read the whole thing in less than two hours) but it's also quite impactful – all of the characters begin to confront their problems and start to work towards a better life, and although there are some cute moments, there are also some very serious moments. Perhaps the one and only turn off was the Happily Ever After ending – it almost felt a little condescending and stereotypical. However if you don't always like your contemporary fiction to be really gritty and dark, this may just be a book you'll love.

*Zelah Green* is the British story of 14-year-old *Zelah* who has OCD. Her Mom died and her Father fell into a deep depression and became an alcoholic. When her evil stepmother sends her off to a teens' mental house, *Zelah* is completely confused. Why is she here with all of these freaks? There

is nothing wrong with her. But once she meets the others, she realizes that she is a little different, but she can overcome anything because of it. A great book for teens, Zelah Green is a story of standing out, overcoming your fears, and finding friendship in wild places. The book ends on a bittersweet moment. Parents be warned- this book has a few cases of the 's' word and many cases of 'crap'. One of the girls cuts herself, and in a scene there is blood all over the floor. She is a great artist, but draws some disturbing pictures. One of the teens is anorexic. I was afraid I'd be reading about her vomit, but they mostly just described her shy figure. Great job Vanessa Curtis! I can't wait for the next book.

This is a really good read, a bit short but still good. Loved it even though I preferred the second book to this one. It has lots of little surprising bits along the way.

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