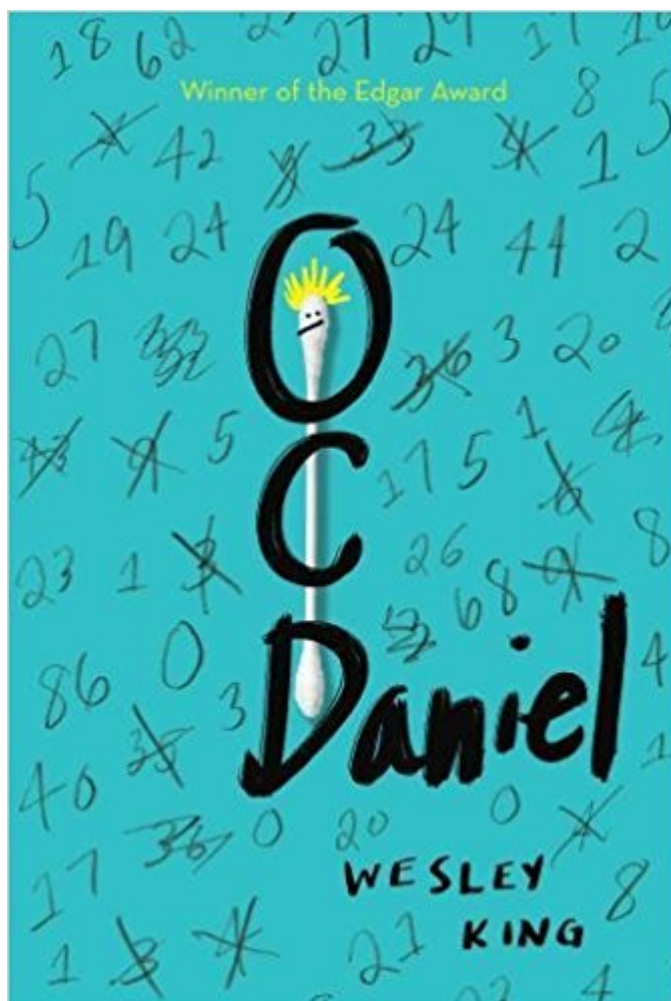


The book was found

OCDaniel



Synopsis

EDGAR AWARD WINNER FOR BEST MYSTERY BANK STREET BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR
SILVER BIRCH AWARD WINNER

“Complex and satisfying. Written from Daniel’s point of view, this perceptive first-person narrative is sometimes painful, sometimes amusing, and always rewarding.”

• Booklist (starred review) From the author of *Incredible Space Raiders from Space!* comes a brand-new coming-of-age story about a boy whose life revolves around hiding his obsessive compulsive disorder until he gets a mysterious note that changes everything. Daniel is the back-up punter for the Erie Hills Elephants. Which really means he’s the water boy. He spends football practice perfectly arranging water cups and hoping no one notices. Actually, he spends most of his time hoping no one notices his strange habits—he calls them Zaps: avoiding writing the number four, for example, or flipping a light switch on and off dozens of times over. He hopes no one notices that he’s crazy, especially his best friend Max, and Raya, the prettiest girl in school. His life gets weirder when another girl at school, who is unkindly nicknamed Psycho Sara, notices him for the first time. She doesn’t just notice him: she seems to peer through him. Then Daniel gets a note: “I need your help,” it says, signed, Fellow Star Child—whatever that means. And suddenly Daniel, a total no one at school, is swept up in a mystery that might change everything for him. With great voice and grand adventure, this book is about feeling different and finding those who understand.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0560 (What’s this?)

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books; Reprint edition (April 11, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 148145532X

ISBN-13: 978-1481455329

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.7 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 18 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #76,573 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #83 in Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Illness #175 in Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction #553 in Books > Children’s Books > Science

Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up-Daniel, a budding writer and resident pariah, is tortured by a neurosis that racks his body and mind with pain if he doesn't fulfill obsessive rituals before bed, eating, or anything else in life. He lives in fear of these compulsions, until his path is crossed by someone whose cornucopia of irregularities rival his own. Sara is situationally mute and understands his problems because hers are more than she can bear. Believing her father was killed by her stepfather, Sara embarks with Daniel on a desperate search to reveal her father's fate. King uses crisp, believable dialogue to illustrate positive character dynamics, while sidestepping stereotypes and the typical YA tropes in this coming-of-age tale. Readers will find the characters sympathetic but may become disillusioned by the lack of a driving point in the book. At times, the work is a character-driven book of neuroses, and at others it's a quirky coming-of-age comedy. Then, it switches gears and becomes a plot-driven novel of suspense. King endeavors to explore too many avenues of possibility: the progression of Daniel's placekicking career; his unlikely pursuit of Raya, the popular girl from school; the inclusion of the character's own writing; and, finally, the arc unveiling the fate of Sara's father. King is a skillful writer, but the multiple strands give the novel an unfocused feel. VERDICT This book will appeal to readers who enjoy weird boy-meets-misunderstood girl stories, particularly fans of A.S. King's *Please Ignore Vera Dietz* and John Green's *Paper Towns*.-Brian Hoff, Elmwood Park High School, IL
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King (*The Incredible Space Raiders from Space!*) offers a candid and memorable account of life with OCD, inspired by his own experience with the anxiety disorder. Thirteen-year-old Daniel Leigh, a wryly funny narrator, has a popular best friend, a crush on a classmate, and a spot on the football team as backup kicker. But he also has a secret that is making him miserable: he is plagued by "Zaps," his name for the triggers such as an unlucky number or the wrong number of steps that create a flood of horrible feelings that can only be quelled by certain actions such as flicking a light switch repeatedly. Writing is an outlet for Daniel, and excerpts from the novel he's working on are interspersed throughout. When Sara, a selectively mute school outcast, suddenly begins to speak to him, she draws him into a potential murder mystery and

becomes the first person to see and understand his struggle. Daniel's pain and confusion at what he comes to realize is OCD is memorably portrayed in this moving story of self-acceptance (Publishers Weekly). In a departure from his previous book, *The Incredible Space Raiders from Space* (2015), King offers the story of an "eccentric thirteen-year-old social oddity" who desperately wants to be normal. Exhausted by the excruciating nightly Routine that keeps him from sleep for hours and his daily efforts to conceal his obsession with numbers, Daniel Leigh believes he is crazy. Otherwise, Daniel is a typical eighth-grade white boy. He's desperate to fit in, to make his father proud, and to win the affections of the most beautiful and popular girl in school, in this case Raya Singh. When Daniel (backup kicker and water boy) is plucked from the sidelines of the football field, he's given a shot at making those dreams come true. Then something strange happens. Sara Melvern, who hasn't spoken once in the eight years he's known her, invites him to help her solve the mystery of her father's disappearance, and Daniel realizes that sometimes dreams aren't all they're cracked up to be. Daniel's narration is charming, funny, and occasionally heartbreaking, and a secondary cast of well-developed characters keeps the plot moving. . . . Part coming-of-age, part mystery, and part middle-grade social-problem novel, Daniel's story will resonate with a broad spectrum of readers. (Fiction. 8-13) (Kirkus Reviews 2/15/16) As the backup kicker on his football team, 13-year-old Daniel spends his time watching from the bench. Socially, he is an onlooker as well. But soon Sara, an ostracized girl at school, breaks through his shyness by demanding help with investigating her father's possible murder. It seems heartless to refuse, though logically (and later, legally) he should. As tension mounts, his anxiety level rises, and "The Routine" he is compelled to follow at bedtime grows longer and more burdensome. Daniel knows that he is different, but he suffers alone and in silence. It's a revelation when Sara offers him information on obsessive compulsive disorder and a path toward coping with it. A brief, appended author's note dispels common misconceptions about OCD and calls Daniel "an almost autobiographical representation of myself at that age." King creates convincing characters and writes engaging dialogue, and whether or not readers identify fully with Daniel, they will see parts of themselves in this vulnerable protagonist. Clues dropped in the first part of the book may lead readers to expect a conventional sort of happy ending, but the story's conclusion is more complex and satisfying. Written from Daniel's point of view, this perceptive firstperson narrative is sometimes painful, sometimes amusing, and always rewarding. (Booklist, STARRED REVIEW March 1, 2016) --This text refers to the Digital edition.

In a school of 500, it's estimated that about 10 kids will have OCD. Many of them don't know they

have it until much later, so they often live in a private hell of fear and shame. I am so happy for this book, because I really think it will help a lot of kids. It's a fun story with a likable main character who struggles with his issues while trying to fit in at school. The combination is a home run. This is a must read for kids, whether they have OCD or not.

This book is a YA book. But no matter how old you are, this book is for everybody who are suffering with mental illness.

Good book

great book...great author...

I wish there were more stars to give to *OCDaniel*. It's a wonderful and emotional read that I think any middle or high schooler (or adult) will enjoy. Daniel is 13 years old and has OCD (obsessive compulsive disorder), but he doesn't know what it is. Written in the first person, he tells how his rituals affect his life and when the first symptoms began. While OCD is the main subject, Daniel also describes feeling like an inferior sibling and being bullied for other reasons, making it a good look inside the overall hell we know as middle school. There is a bonus mystery to be solved to add even more reason to keep turning the pages. I'm going to get personal for a moment. I have OCD, but it is the result of a bad accident that left me with a traumatic brain injury. This book had me absolutely sobbing during many of the chapters. The descriptions of the torment were almost too realistic. OCD is bad enough as an adult, but to go through it as a kid must be horrible. I hope those who have it, whether or not they know what it is, are able to find this book. It has the potential to help many people. *OCDaniel* is a book I recommend to anyone, even younger children who are able to read at a middle grade level. It's a fast read, making it a good choice for reluctant readers. There are many opportunities for discussion for parents or teachers who wish to read it with their children or class. This review is based upon a complimentary copy provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

There were many things that I liked about this book and only a few that I didn't. Let me just start with what I didn't like and get that out of the way. There is a good sized portion of this book dedicated to the main character's after school sport of football. The main character hates the sport and isn't good

at playing it either. I felt that the chapters about this didn't do much in the way of adding to the character development. It just seemed like filler for the most part. Now onto the good things about this book. This book explains OCD in terms that I think young readers will be able to understand. It gives an inside look at what life for a younger person with OCD is like and it even has an interesting story mixed in. The characters are well written, especially the main ones, and the story is appropriate for all ages. I personally found the resolution to be too neat and tidy, it is definitely a story with resolution. I would have liked it to be a little more open ended so that I'm left thinking more about the character after the story ends. Overall it was a good read and to my knowledge the first of its kind. I have never read another book that discusses OCD in an approachable way and think that for that alone it is well worth looking into.

Daniel is the backup kicker for his football team. Which really means he's the waterboy and he's just fine with that. As a water boy he can have his fix of quirks arranging things like the cups while no one is looking. Thing is this is connected on a larger scale to what he calls Zaps. If he doesn't do a certain repetition he feels he surely will die. While he is trying to hide the Zaps and look normal, the completely un-normal Psycho Sara deems him worthy talking to. Sara is on a mission to find the truth behind the disappearance of her father and is asking Daniel to help. I've been on a mission to come across as many mental health based books lately and this was on target for what I was looking for. What I liked about this book was that it was amusing at times, it was interesting and kind of heart breaking getting to know about Daniel and his quirk and what routines he has to take to even just go to bed. I think his parents should've known something, with habits like his night routine it should've been more noticeable to the parents. I thought it was interesting seeing Daniel's relationship between the characters throughout the book, how different he was to Sara and Raya. I enjoyed seeing the part of Daniel in how he temporarily stops the zaps by escaping into his fantasy world. Overall It was a pretty good book and I enjoyed it.

I bought this book because someone I am very close to has OCD (she has been helped tremendously through CBT Exposure/Response Prevention therapy). Wow, I'm so glad I read this. It was authentic, emotional, funny and just an all around awesome story. Daniel was so relatable and yet opened a huge window for me as well. Whether or not you (or someone you know) struggles with OCD, this is an excellent read with authentic characters and struggles that pull at your heartstrings. It's a middle grade novel but definitely enjoyable for adults to read as well.

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