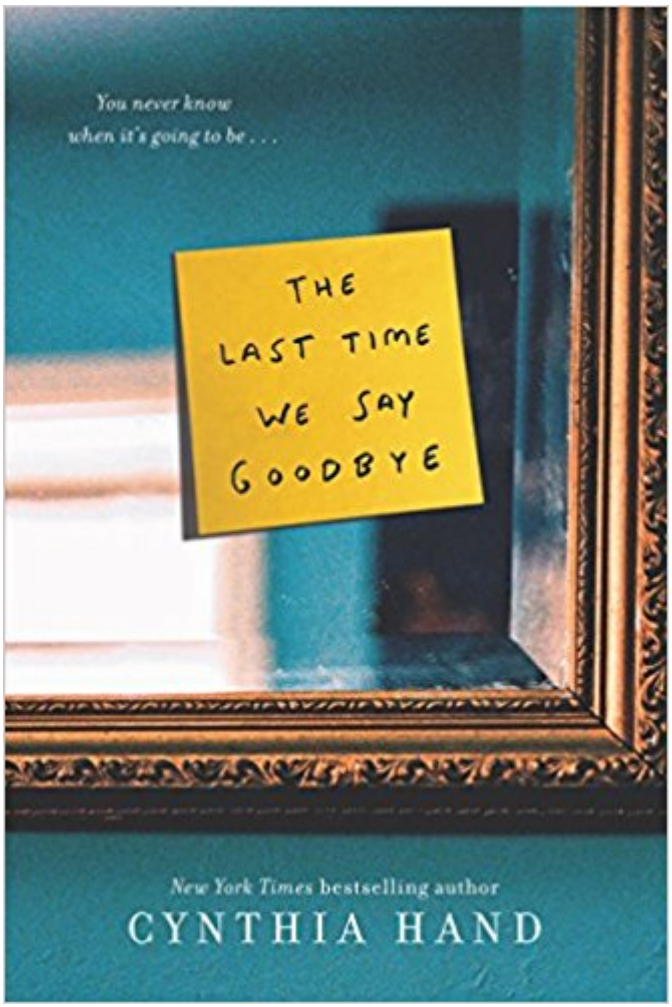
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The Last Time We Say Goodbye



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Synopsis

In the tradition of Thirteen Reasons Why and All the Bright Places, The Last Time We Say Goodbye is a deeply affecting novel that will change the way you look at life and death.From New York Times bestselling author Cynthia Hand comes a stunning, heart-wrenching novel of love and loss, which ALA Booklist called "both shatteringly painful and bright with life and hope" in a starred review.Since her brother, Tyler, committed suicide, Lex has been trying to keep her grief locked away, and to forget about what happened that night. But as she starts putting her life, her family, and her friendships back together, Lex is haunted by a secret she hasn't told anyoneÃ¢â ¬â •a text Tyler sent, that could have changed everything.

Book Information

Paperback: 400 pages

Publisher: HarperTeen; Reprint edition (February 9, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062318489

ISBN-13: 978-0062318480

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.9 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 228 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #32,470 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Suicide #48 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Siblings #79 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Death & Dying

Customer Reviews

Gr 8 UpÃ¢â ¬â •For Lex, since her brother committed suicide, questions about their last goodbye have haunted her. Filled with regret, she ponders their last words and not being able to show him how much she loved him while he was still alive. The narrative unravels in perfect pacing, drawing readers into this emotional story. With a rocky home life in a small town in Nebraska, Lex begins pulling away from her friends, breaks up with her boyfriend, and struggles with life in general. When her therapist, Dave, assigns her the task of writing down her thoughts in a journal, flashbacks of the siblings' relationship and the protagonist's interactions with their parents fill in the gaps. Readers will be drawn in by the even pacing, the heavy moments never overwhelming the teen's story. Raw, emotional, and gripping, this book is Hand's first realistic fiction title, and fans of her popular

"Unearthly" series (HarperCollins) will follow her genre change willingly. Libraries should jump at having this book, not only because of the author’s previous work, but because it is an excellent and thoughtful exploration of grief.Ã¢â ¬â •Stephanie Charlefour, Wixom Public Library, MI --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Ã¢â ¬Å“A quietly powerful, emotionally complex novel that will echo with readers long after it is finished. Both shatteringly painful and bright with life and hope.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Booklist (starred review))Ã¢â ¬Å“Reading The Last Time We Say Goodbye feels like exploring a forest after itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s been decimated by wildfire. You will see new shoots sprouting where you least expect them.Ã¢â ¬Â• (New York Times Book Review)Ã¢â ¬Å“Evocative and insightful.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Kirkus Reviews)Ã¢â ¬Å“Raw, emotional, and gripping. An excellent and thoughtful exploration of grief.Ã¢â ¬Â• (School Library Journal)Ã¢â ¬Å“Dealing with teen suicide is tough, and this novel tackles it well, with dignity, sensitivity, and poignant regard. Irresistibly engaging.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA))

Grab your tissues and prepare for a brilliantly written, absolutely touching read that will bring you to tears many times. Cynthia Hand is back with a new book that is a marked departure from the Unearthly series, but just as amazing! The genre of suicide is quickly becoming a bigger market (at least currently), but it can be hard to find novels that are done well and give the subject the respect it deserves. However, this novel does this excellently, and should be on your TBR list right away.The one thing that I loved about this book is that it wasn’t actually about the person who committed suicide. It was about the aftermath and what happens to the people left behind. This was an interesting path to take, and I think Ms. Hand raised awareness to the fact that suicide effects everyone. The Last Time We Say Goodbye is wonderful in its simplicity, and serves as a tribute to those who are left behind. While it is a heartbreaking read, at the same time, it reminds everyone reading the importance of paying attention and remembering that you never know when the last time you see or speak to someone will be. Put simply, this novel makes you think. And that is where the true beauty lies.Lex, our main character, is extremely strong, even if she doesn’t think so. She must find a way to deal with her brother’s suicide and find a way to move on. And this is exactly what she does. This isn’t a love story, where Lex meets a guy that shows her there’s more to life than dwelling on the event that happened 3 months ago. This is the story about a girl who finds herself, and gets through this incredibly difficult situation on her own. Along the way she realizes that she isn’t alone, and that getting to that place where everything she is feeling is a bit more

manageable takes time.This is a deep novel that is full of heartfelt and touching moments. While it won't be the easiest novel to read as it is a tearjerker, it is worth it in every single way. This is an absolute must-read, so don't put this one off!Happy reading :)

This book was incredibly difficult for me to read, but not because it was poorly written in any way. If anything, it was hard to read because Cynthia Hand writes incredibly well about a grief that I am intimately familiar with. I lost my own younger brother to suicide, and reading this story brought up all of the emotions and pain that goes along with that kind of loss in a very visceral and real way.What strikes me the most about this beautifully written story is how it is not so much about death as it is about forgiveness. Yes, the book centers on the suicide, but it also revolves around LexÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s need to forgive those around her. Not just her brother, but her mother, friends, and herself as well. The story is very dark, but it doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t shy away from the grief that Lex experiences.This book is an extremely well written, character-driven story of grief and forgiveness. I highly recommend it.

My daughter Shelby Nicolle Marie Perez committed suicide on January 3, 2011 at 14 years old. When I read the cover to your book I thought to myself that I might be hurt or cause myself pain by reading this fictional plot/storyline. I was immediately drawn into your descriptions, words and emotions. I kept reading because I could not put down your book, your words. I know in the end that you stated very clearly that the book is not your life but the words you wrote, the feelings you expressed are those of a survivor of suicide. I ended up crying in the end but not until I read your acknowledgement and I realized that you suffered a loss also. Thank you for sharing your heart and your mind.

This is the first book I have read by Cynthia Hand. I wasn't sure what to expect. I absolutely love this book. It is beautifully written and Lex, the main character, captured my heart. Lex is dealing with the suicide of her younger brother. She is introverted by nature, more comfortable with math than language. She has broken up with her boyfriend and withdrawn from her group of friends. She is worried about her mother, who is having even more trouble dealing with the suicide than Lex is. She has a strained relationship with her father, who moved out to be with his secretary a few years ago.She begins seeing a therapist who suggests she keeps a journal about her feelings.Her journey to forgive her brother, her father, and ultimately herself is touching, sad, beautiful and feels so very real.Cynthia Hand has said she dealt with something similar, though this is not her story. It is so

clear she has drawn from her experience and it is to the benefit of the reader. She has given us as readers a generous gift in sharing such a private part of herself, and has done an amazing job.I can not say enough good things about this book. It is a must-read. It is going on my favorites list!

Heart wrenching story about the wreckage of lives after a suicide. Lexi Riggs is a perfect character in this coming of age story dealing with the shocking loss of her brother that sends her well ordered life into a tail spin. Despite the fact that her parents have split, she is a balanced, well grounded over achiever, in the throes of discovering her first love. Then her word implodes with her brother's suicide, and Lexy must deal with her spiraling mother, distant father, and a secret that is tearing her apart. Cynthia Hand writes of grief, the soul sucking despair of losing a loved one. The guilt that flays the hearts and minds of the living, leaving empty shells of humanity filled with remorse. Lexie must reach deep and relive a fateful moment in time, so she can accept what has happened and embrace life and love again.

The main character was so real in her complexity and, at the same time, her simplicity. The visceral reaction to loss, tragedy and fear left me crying while my heart raced. Losing a sibling to suicide touches so many taboos and makes you wonder why getting help is so hard.

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