



The New Normal

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Tamar Robinson knows a lot about loss--more than any teenager should. Her younger sisters are dead, her parents are adrift in a sea of grief, and now Tamar is losing her hair. Nevertheless, she navigates her rocky life as best she can, not always with grace, but with her own brand of twisted humor. She joins the chess club with her friend Roy, earns a part in the school production of *The Wizard of Oz*, buys an awesome wig, lands a crappy job, gets invited to the prom (by three different guys!) and helps her parents re-enter the land of the living. What Tamar lacks in tact (and hair), she makes up for in sheer tenacity.

The New Normal Details

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Author : Ashley Little

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From Reader Review The New Normal for online ebook

Kamri Orane says

the new normal by ashley little was an average book. tamar the main character of this book is a weird teenage girl who struggles with the loss of her two twin sisters and has to cope with her parents drifting. tamar is just an ordinary who starts to lose her hair and eyelashes and begins to wonder. this book is good for you if you like comedy but serious subjects at the same time.

Brandi Kosiner (Brandi Breathes Books) says

3.5 I wanted to read The New Normal because I was intrigued by the hair loss issues as well as how she would handle it on top of the rest of the loss she had in her life.

Karen at For What It's Worth and Mary at The Book Swarm occasionally post twitter-style reviews. Karen calls hers Short and Tweet, and I am going to borrow that review style here.

Tweet (or two)

I flew through this & connected with Tamar. She was strong and funny and realized there was more to her than appearance- she ended up owning the loss of hair and made it a new part of who she was. The family aspect was well done and could feel the grief of loss of sisters.

I rated it a little bit lower than first impression of a 4 star because I read this a week and a half ago, and don't remember many details besides I enjoyed.

Bottom Line: Loved the mc and character growth.

Kristin Katsuye says

It was a good book with a pretty good story & topic to it but only 4 stars because it didn't really have an ending to it. I mean it ended & concluded yes but there wasn't an actual complete ending. Nothing got better or worse it just ended.

Jessica says

I thought this book was very sad :(but I did enjoy the ending.

Tori says

It was a sweet book showing the ups and downs of life it was a nice light read. very pleasant

Moze (SmartFolksRead) says

What if one day you looked around and your twin sisters were gone? Your parents aren't working anymore and neither is their marriage? You don't know what to do with your life and suddenly all of your hair is falling out. All of it. This is The New Normal for Tamar.

It has been a few months since the death of her younger, wild child twin sisters and Tamar is still coping. She doesn't understand why her sisters would get in a car with boys who had been drinking and agree to play road chicken. She doesn't understand why her mother is suddenly so obsessed with yoga and her father needs to drink all the time. She doesn't understand why neither of her parents are working, despite the bills rolling in. She doesn't understand why her hair is falling out. She just doesn't understand.

This book was good, don't get me wrong, but I felt like there was just something missing. There were scenes such as the prom date incident that were over much too quickly with not enough explanation. The novel had a few plot points, but overall it lacked a strong central plot. I thought Tamar's point of view was enjoyable to read, but I often found myself unable to connect with what I was reading. It was a quick read, though and I had it finished in about a day. The romance between Roy and Tamar is innocent enough to make this one appropriate for middle grade readers, but the topics make it applicable to young adult readers as well. Overall I gave this one 3 stars out of 5 because it was enjoyable, but there was just that extra special something lacking that made me want to devour it over and over again.

Tracey says

Tamar was really awesome. how she reacted to everything was exactly how i would have reacted. she is my spirit book animal.

Melissa says

This book is about a girl named Tamar Robinson and how she deals with the problems in her everyday life and the death about her two little sisters. She also starts losing her hair and worrying about what everyone else might think about her having no hair. She then buys a wig which gets pulled off due to being in a fight. A boy named Roy befriends Tamar helping her through her problems in her life and Tamar realizes that being bald is okay. Roy and Tamar start dating and trying to survive through the tough high school life.

The reason i picked up this book was because the cover made the book seem quite interesting. Once i read the back, it made me want to read the book even more interesting. The book was pretty good although there were some parts in the book where the author did tend to speed through the problem and just push it aside.

I would recommend this book to anyone who likes to read a book that is a little realistic but would still have that originality kind of feel to it.

Emily♥ says

I'm actually surprised at how much I enjoyed this book. The synopsis was really vague, but it peeked my interests so I gave it a try.

Stories about after death are for some reason a favorite of mine. Tamar had a great voice. Some people hide the part of grief where you are mad at the dead. But Tamar embraced that, and I felt more connected to her because of it. Everyone must go through the different stages of grief to finally feel somewhat normal.

I loved her parents. And I loved Roy and how he perceived Tamar.

There wasn't much of a storyline, but it just made it easier to breeze through this book. Not that this book is in anyway light, but I just wanted to stay with Tamar, her parents, and Roy a littler longer. Just to make sure they were going to be okay.

Michelle says

[For the whole book, I was expecting her parents to confront her about the guitar's disappearance. Never happened. (hide spoiler)]

Amanda says

It was ok. This book felt like more of a story collection than a novel. I like the premise behind the book but I would have preferred to see more of what happened before the book began. Maybe start with the death of the sisters and show how life has progressed. I would have liked to have seen the moment when Tamar first started noticing that she was losing her hair. It seems that she went from having a bald spot to being completely bald in a matter of days. After that, the rest of the book just felt like little stories, not necessarily related to the big picture.

Probably not one that I will carry in my library. Probably not one I will recommend. However, it will be the one that, one day, I might be like... oh yeah... I think I read that.

Sandy says

What is normal? Are you normal? I don't consider myself normal nor do I want to be normal because to me normal is just one sheep out of a flock. And then again I like consistency, I like dependency and I like not to stand out too much but I don't consider myself or my life normal. For Tamar, she thought her life was normal. Two parents, two sisters, not the best-looking one around nor the smartest but somewhere in the middle and her life was "normal" or what you would consider normal for a teenager until the accident. The tragedy that claimed the lives of her sisters and now her life is far from normal. Tamar's own hair is falling out and the reasoning behind it, well there is no reason behind as far as she can tell. With the help of doctors and other specialists, Tamar's trying to find out the logic behind this madness as her parents walk like zombies trying to cope with the tragic accident surrounding their daughters. Tamar's physical change

has emotional and life-altering consequences and it consumes her. Using her quick and witty tongue, Tamar is able to help combat the issues surrounding her at home and at school but you have to wonder just how deep these issues go with her. With no close friends on board immediately to help her deal with the problems, what happens to Tamar and her family? The issue with her finding and dealing with her new normal becomes a struggle and an adjustment.

I really enjoyed Tamar's sharp tongue and her tell-it-like-it-is voice. She is raw and speaks her mind and I laughed a few times reading her thoughts and her comments. As she matured and dealt with issues in the book, you could see her change and it was like a melting occurred. I liked the part about the jobs, and her reflection on them. Some parts of the book, I felt were rushed and I wished the author would have spent more time as I would have felt more connection with the characters and more committed to them. I also felt there were a few loose ends at the end of the book that I wished had been answered.

Mature readers: adult language

Brenda Kahn says

Grades 7 & up

Canadian sixteen-year-old Tamar does not beat around the bush. She's losing her hair and no one knows why, or if it will ever grow back. She assumes it has to do with the fact that she and her parents are still reeling from the loss of Tamar's twin sisters in a drunk driving accident. Her dad has checked out emotionally, her mom takes refuge in doing yoga 24/7, neither one has returned to their jobs, so money's tight. And Tamar is pissed off. Rightfully so.

I fell in love with her take-no-prisoners voice immediately. I also thought the author realistically portrayed the roller coaster effect of coping with grief. I was particularly amused by Tamar's mom's retreat into yoga practice. But certain inconsistencies began to eat away at my enjoyment - the first when Tamar was utterly devastated by an anonymous note left in her locker warning her away from her best, and nearly only, friend, Roy Lee. Another had to do with her mom's flight to a yoga retreat for six weeks shortly after her dad falls off the roof and breaks his leg. There were no phone calls, letters or any communication from the mom, which would be in character except for the rather tidy turnabout at the end.

Then, there's the prom section. First, I don't know about Canadian proms, but here in America, prom is a big deal, with dates being set months in advance along with dress shopping, limo reserving and the like. No way does someone get asked the day before and if they do, red flags should be waving fiercely. It seemed contrived; put there as yet another slap in Tamar's face. I would've preferred the issues halved in favor of character development. Still, given the unique issue of alopecia and Tamar's intriguing voice, the book will find its readers.

Nicole Levesque says

I think that it was a good book, I could have just used a couple chapters more.

Book 28/75 (2018)

Laura VanZant says

Awesome YA novel (and Ashley is a wonderful human as well).
