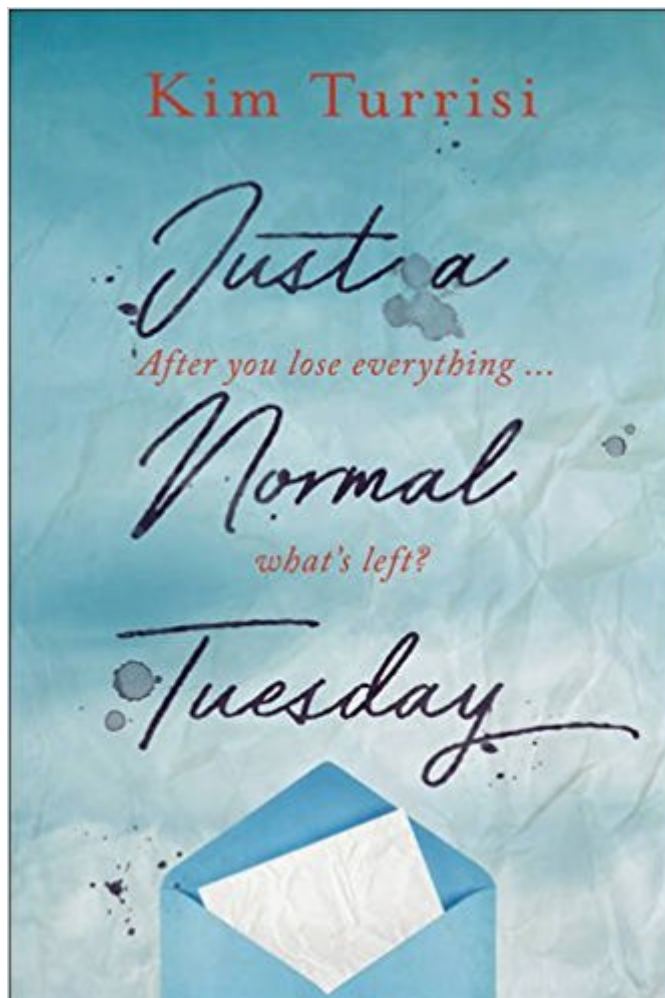




The book was found

Just A Normal Tuesday



Synopsis

What begins as just a normal Tuesday becomes a day that will shatter sixteen-year-old Kai's life forever. All it takes is a letter, tucked into a pile of their family's mail. It's from Kai's older sister, Jen, who lives nearby. And it begins, "If you are reading this, I am already gone." Jen has committed suicide. Dazed, Kai helps to plan Jen's funeral and tries to cope with their devastated parents, all the while searching for answers. How could Jen do this, and why? Kai is heartbroken and furious, and soon she's caught in a vicious downward spiral, self-medicating and lashing out at the people she loves. That's when her parents shock her: they're sending her to the Tree House, a summer camp for grieving teens. Kai is not a happy camper at first. But when she meets other kids who are grappling with loss, she begins to share her feelings, find a way forward, even laugh ... and fall in love. Just a Normal Tuesday offers a roadmap for anyone who has been touched by loss and anyone who is looking for hope in a broken world. Author Kim Turrisi won a Daytime Emmy for her work as co-creator, executive producer and writer of *Venice: The Series*. Kim also wrote for ABC Family's webisode series *Pretty Dirty Secrets*, an online companion to *Pretty Little Liars*. This is her first novel.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

... the timeless themes of love, loss, and moving forward will find a readership among those who are also grieving and need to know they're not alone. —Kirkus Reviews There is grief and there is grace, and this book is full of both. A look at love, loss, and learning to live with questions that have

no answers. Kim Turrisi is an exquisite new voice. — Martha Brockenbrough, author of *The Game of Love and Death*, finalist for the Kirkus Prize

After graduating from Florida State University, Kim Turrisi began her career in film and television. After a year of on-set production, Kim segued into the development side of the business. She first worked as a development executive at Columbia TriStar and eventually shepherded many projects in family entertainment for Disney, Viacom and Hallmark. Kim created and wrote an online web series for which she won a Daytime Emmy. She wrote for ABC Family's webisode series *Pretty Dirty Secrets*, an internet companion piece to smash hit *Pretty Little Liars*. Born in Hawaii, Kim credits her love of travel to her life as an Air Force brat who moved every two years. When she isn't writing or reading, she can be found obsessing over her dogs, Riley and Rocco.

As someone who has lost a loved one to suicide, I found this story to be heart wrenching, honest, and cathartic. Suicide elicits so many emotions: shock, denial, anger, guilt, and Turrisi captures all of them from the viewpoint of a younger sister struggling to answer the biggest question: why? I think what I liked most about *Just a Normal Tuesday* was Kai's journey through the pain to the healing, finding comfort in community and sharing with others who have suffered a similar loss. Kai's voice is witty and smart and the ending will leave you full of hope for her future. I think any teen (or adult, for that matter) who has lost a loved one will relate to the gamut of feels in this one.

Grade: B+4.5 stars After Kai's beloved older sister, Jen, commits suicide, Kai drowns her pain in anger, booze and pills. Her parents send her to grief camp, where she and four other teens struggle with mourning their losses. Boy can Kim Turrisi write; her prose is fresh and unique. Like Kai, Turrisi lost her sister to suicide as a teen, so she accurately captures the magnitude of grief and different ways people mourn. Sometimes when writers pen books on topics they've experienced, those novels lack perspective. Not Turrisi. Kai's grief is as complex and layered as her character. Each of the campers in her group are caught uniquely up in their individual struggles, yet share common themes of pain, regret and sorrow. I wish Turrisi hadn't called the groups therapy, because they aren't. Therapist need of training and oversight. Marco has a BS in Business. He had the camp training and life experience to be a camp counselor and do exercises with the teens, not therapy or even group therapy. He was qualified to run a support group. Turrisi makes no mention of therapists or psychiatrists being on staff, which are a must for therapeutic camps. At least two of the teens in Kai's group had PTSD, which at times needs closer supervision than a guy with a bachelor degree

in business. JUST A NORMAL TUESDAY is such a hopeful story and should be mandatory reading for teens and tweens dealing with death. Life can improve, but it will never be the same as before the death.

This book shines a light. Learning that the author lost her own sister to suicide and has spent most of her life calling herself an only child--because it was an easier mine field to walk than the "shame" of suicide--illustrates why this book is so important for all of us to read. Shame, guilt, hopelessness and anger are words that help to perpetuate so many untruths about all aspects of suicide, especially when we cloak them in silence. Luckily, there is so much to unwrap beneath the cover of this book and I'm so glad that more and more brave people are willing to start these conversations and take steps forward. It helps us all. I can't wait to see what Turrisi writes next.

Just a Normal Tuesday is a very good book. I thoroughly enjoyed it. Very sad subject but one that too many face. It was also good because you never know what to say to someone or how to act. This gave you ideas on how to be a friend to someone going through this situation. I am hoping for a sequel!

Kim Turrisi writing draws you in from the first page to the last. I did not want the book to end. Kai is head strong, vulnerable, confused, angry. All the emotions one would expect with the tragedy she endured. Coming to grips with that tragedy thru grief camp with kids experienced losses albeit different than Cai helped not only Cai but the reader to understand the depths of ones despair. Heartwarming and tearful and although the loss of her sister will be a mystery and forever a great loss, Cai finds strength to carry on. I would recommend this book to all ages. Well done Kim!

Just a Normal Tuesday is so powerful in its honesty. Every emotion rang so true, which is why the grief so many of the characters are feeling cut so deep. I found the experience of reading it to be very cathartic - it brought up so many emotions that I could process as I read. I cried my way through this book and I'm better for it. I am so thankful that this book exists.

You do not want to have your heart broken in pieces by this situation, but you do want to be able to empathize with it. Kim Turrisi's book brings all the feeling that we should experience for love and kindness in these matters.

It's not often a book changes your life, your point of view. But this book, came at the perfect moment to remind me of the beauty in life, even amidst pain. It's a wonderful reminder to fight, to keep going. It's honesty is raw, but it's hope is tangible. #MentalHealthAwarenessMonth #ProjectSemicolon #LiveYourStory

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