

Book Summary

Turtles all the way down – John Green

About the Book

Title: Turtles all the way down

Author: John Green

Total Pages: 286

Date published: 2017

Language: English

Genre: Young adult novel | Coming of age story

Themes: Mental illness, young love, and friendship.

Summary:

Introducing Aza Holmes

Aza Holmes lives in Indianapolis in the State of Indiana, USA. The book does not say much else, so she has probably lived there her whole life. In the story, Aza is sixteen years old and goes to White River High School. Her mother is a math teacher at the same school.

On the outside Aza may look like a regular girl, but she struggles with mental illness. A mental illness is when your thoughts and behavior have a pattern that is difficult to control. Aza suffers from obsessive-compulsive disorder. It is also called OCD. This is a disorder in which people have unwanted thoughts, ideas, or obsessions that keep repeating. These thoughts make them feel driven to do something repetitively. Repetitive behaviors are also called compulsions.

These are things such as hand washing or cleaning. When the person cannot control their thoughts or compulsions, it can interfere with a person's daily activities and social interactions.

Aza worries about bacterial infections. She is very scared of one bacterial infection, called c-diff, also known as *Clostridioides difficile*. This causes severe diarrhea or colitis, and it can be fatal if not treated. Her mother knows that Aza struggles with OCD and tries to be there for her.

Aza has regular appointments with her psychiatrist, doctor Karen Singh, to see how she is doing with her medication and mental illness. Aza has difficulty being honest about the medication. She is not taking it every day. She is afraid the medication will change her somehow.

Aza's father died and the story does not say why her father died. It mentions that he was mowing the lawn at home and then he collapsed. Her mother tried CPR, but he was already gone. Aza remembers that at the hospital, the doctors asked if he had a heart condition.

So, maybe the father died of a heart attack.

Aza misses her dad still. Her mother also misses her husband. When they talk together about missing him, they are very supportive of each other and kind. Aza has her father's old car. Her father named the car Harold, so she still calls it Harold too. Harold is a sixteen-year-old Toyota Corolla in the color Teal. Even though Harold is very old, Aza doesn't mind. It reminds her of her father. When Aza feels lonely and needs to talk to her father, she charges his old phone and watches the pictures on the phone. She pretends she is talking to him on his last picture. Her mother saved all the pictures on the computer but looking at the pictures on the phone brings Aza comfort, and she keeps the phone in Harold.

Koop het document voor de rest!