



Everything Left Unsaid

Jessica Davidson

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"I wait for him, the cold seeping through my clothes, until it finally dawns on me that he's not coming back. And I wonder why he chose her instead of me? Why he went looking for her when I was right there."

Tai and Juliet have been best friends forever – since they met at kindy and decided to get married in first grade.

They understand each other in the way that only best friends can.

They love music, beach walks, energy drinks and, they are slowly discovering, each other.

As they dream of adventures beyond the HSC – a future free of homework, curfews and parents, a life together – their plans are suddenly and dramatically derailed.

For Tai is sick.

And not everything you wish for can come true.

A poignant story of first love, hope, grief, family, and the twistedness of life.

Everything Left Unsaid Details

Date : Published August 1st 2012 by Pan Macmillan Australia

ISBN : 9780330424950

Author : Jessica Davidson

Format : Paperback 301 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Contemporary, Romance, Realistic Fiction, Death

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From Reader Review Everything Left Unsaid for online ebook

Carina says

So fucking depressing and sad. But so beautiful at the same time!
I haven't cried this hard in a LONG time. I'm not even sure I'll be able to write a review.
Holy crap, that was sure something =(

Georgia says

Everything Left Unsaid was a beautiful, heart-warming book. I completely fell in love with everything about it. The story was amazing, heart-warming, but heart-breaking. I was laughing and crying. This book was an emotional rollercoaster. It was so unbelievably sad, and I loved every minute.

Juliet and Tai have been best friends for years. Their friendship and love for each other has always been strong. With their mutual love of music, beach-walks and energy drinks, they complete each other. When Juliet finally realises her true feelings for Tai, everything between them just gets better. Their love grows. Then, when the unthinkable happens and Tai is sick, how will they both cope? Is their love strong enough for even *this*?

Everything Left Unsaid left me a crying, blubbering, emotional mess. Tai and Juliet's love story was beautiful. Although, there were some times when I could've wacked Tai because he was being silly, but I didn't because what he was going through was enough.

I felt sorry for Juliet. She tried to be strong and bold, but really she just wanted to cry and cry and cry. She was losing the love of her life and no one really understood her pain. The only person she could talk to was Tai, and he was the problem. Tai was... alright. I liked him in the beginning, but his illness turned him into something he was not. It was quite painful to read, from his POV and Juliet's.

Overall, *Everything Left Unsaid* was a beautifully written contemporary. It was so sad, though. I knew this book was going to be emotionally draining, but I warn you, it is so much more. It's emotionally draining and so touching. It was beautiful. I would recommend this to everyone. I loved it so, so much!

Also, the author is **Australian** and the book is set in NSW. That alone is purely awesome.

Good Golly Miss Holly says

There isn't much you need to know about this book before I recommend you go out and buy a copy. *Everything Left Unsaid* is such an addictive and refreshingly realistic novel that I feel it could be enjoyed by almost anyone.

Tai and Juliet have been best friends since kindy but only just discover a romantic fondness for each-other in their final year of school when graduation and uni are on the cards and a semi-adult life is about to begin. All of this comes to a sudden halt when Tai finally goes for a check-up on a reoccurring headache that has been

bothering him for quite some time. It turns out Tai has a brain tumour and with a couple rounds of chemotherapy and a surgery, he may be able to live for a few more months.

I'm not usually one to be drawn to such a morbid sounding novel but I just couldn't resist the idea of this Aussie YA novel. I'm really glad I got a chance to read this book as it's such a quick and easy read with a roller-coaster of emotions and a few teary moments thrown in near the end. I even found myself bringing Everything Left Unsaid along on each and every outing in the hopes of getting stuck in a queue at some point during the day and having even more time to spend reading this book.

I especially loved how Jessica Davidson included lots of little Australianisms which made it an even more enjoyable novel for me. I'm sure it'd work just as well worldwide with such an addictive story-line.

Calzean says

This book lacks the emotional punch of *The Fault in Our Stars* but it is still a moving story, well constructed and powerful.

Juliet and Tai have been friends since kindergarten. Now in their last year at High School they realise their attraction for each other but then Tai learns he has an incurable cancer.

Chapters (mostly) alternate between Tai and Juliet's narrations. This works very well, with Tai's voice (a rare male voice in a YA) being quite unforgettable.

Life is not always a happy place and this book reminds the YA to value their health and opportunities.

Celine says

Review originally posted in: <http://forget8me8not.blogspot.com.au/...>

Cover:

It's interesting how the title font's colour is white and how some of the letters are traced since the background is white too. There is that feeling that something is hanging between the girl and the guy in the cover. I think it suits the story quite well!

Story:

What happens when everything in your life changes the moment you find out your love is sick?

Juliet and Tai are best friends since they were both young. As they grow up together, Juliet finds herself falling for Tai. And when she finally confesses her feeling to Tai, Tai also tells Juliet that he likes her. Just when Juliet thought everything will be perfect, she finds out that Tai is sick, and that everything she wishes for will not come true...

It's been a while since I read a book that made me teary and completely broke my heart and Everything Left Unsaid gave me a mixture of different emotions. The book was written from both Juliet and Tai's POV. Davidson's writing was really beautiful and felt so real. She voiced her characters really well. Reading from Tai's POV particularly broke my heart. I couldn't imagine what life was like for Tai when he found out he was sick. And what was even more painful was the fact that he was leaving all his loved ones behind, including Juliet. The book explored Juliet and Tai's relationship and their bittersweet story as they spend time together until the end of Tai's life. The ending was really sad although it ended the story beautifully. It

made me feel that no matter what happens in our lives, we must go on.

Characters:

One thing I loved the most about Davidson's writing was her characterization of Juliet and Tai. They felt so real to me and I connected to them although sometimes I was a bit frustrated with Juliet and Tai's relationship. Tai and Juliet's relationship was beautiful, built since they were both young with lovely childhood memories. When Juliet discovered that Tai was sick, she always spent most of her time with him and despite the fact that she cried countless times, she knew that tears won't help Tai in any ways. What frustrated me a little was the way Tai sometimes distanced himself from Juliet, even though he clearly loved her. I understood how Tai felt that his life was useless since he was dying, but Juliet was always there for him and he should have told her if he needed time alone instead of not telling her anything. There was one moment when I'm a bit frustrated with Juliet as well when her relationship with Tai was not going so well. But it all worked out in the end. I also really liked Tai's parents. They were very supportive of Tai and made me really sad. Tai's brothers, oh goodness, I really could not imagine how they felt knowing that their brother, who accompanied them through their nightmares was dying. Juliet's friend, Gen, was also a very supportive friend to Juliet.

Overall:

Everything Left Unsaid is a poignant story about life. How sometimes life does not go the way we want to. How life can drastically change in one second. Beautifully written and heart-breaking, Everything Left Unsaid was a beautiful and unforgettable read.

Thank you Pan Macmillan Australia for the review copy!

Katy says

Traveling book at YA-MA. Thanks guys for letting me take part!

Wow. What a tear-jerker this turned out to be! A quick yet emotional read, this story follows a young couple faced with death during a time when they should be thinking about the future. Juliet and Tai were likable, though honestly Juliet kind of annoyed me at times. I wasn't even fully invested in their story until the last 50 pages or so. It basically gets to a point where the tears start and they don't stop!

I would have given this story 3 stars, but the heart breaking end pushed it up to a 4. It definitely brings about emotion in you, especially if you've lost someone close to you. Recommend for someone looking for a good (ugly) cry!!

Amanda says

Juliet and Tai are sixteen years old and in their final year of high school at Eden Grammar. They live in Brookston, a fictional suburb set in Australia. They've been best friends their entire lives, and while they each like the other as more than a friend, neither have admitted it, until now. They finally get together only to find out that Tai is sick, really sick and probably only has a year to live.

I was so happy when I received a copy of Everything Left Unsaid by Jessica Davidson. When I read Australian contemporary YA fiction, everything feels right in the world and reading this book reminded me a lot of my time in high school (minus the friend getting terminally ill).

The story is split between Juliet and Tai's perspectives and I loved being able to get to know both of them. Juliet has finally found the courage to tell Tai how she feels, even though he's dating someone else, but lucky for her, Tai feels the same way. They were too afraid to admit their feelings which is understandable, who would want to ruin such a strong and long-standing friendship? But then Tai is taken to the doctor after suffering from chronic headaches and he's diagnosed with cancer. I debated whether or not I would reveal that but I think anyone reading the blurb will have already figured it out, as I did. He's given a year to live and put on medication to try and help but the doctors have told him there's not a lot they can do.

I really felt for Tai, he's been looking forward to graduating from high school, he's finally dating Juliet, he's planning for Schoolies, uni and then to study abroad and now all his plans have been ruined. To top it off he feels guilty because he really doesn't see the point in treatment when it's going to make him sicker and there is no chance for a prolonged life. But he endures the treatment, including minor surgery and chemo because he doesn't want to let his parents and younger brothers down. His doctor recommends he see a psychologist and he's able to get these feelings off his chest because he doesn't feel like anyone else is really listening to him. He's overwhelmed by the decisions he has to make, should he stay in school, should he have surgery, should he be buried or cremated? His psych suggests he make a list of things he'd like to do before he dies and his top priority is to go on a holiday without his family.

Juliet is so happy to finally be dating Tai and she notices that since they've started dating, she's finding it harder and harder to concentrate on anything else, even her final year at school. This feeling is heightened once she finds out he has cancer. She wants to spend as much time with him as possible and can't understand why her mum is still forcing her to go to school and pick out universities when all she can think about is that she will be losing her best friend and boy friend in twelve months time. Like Tai, she has some close friends who are there for her but slowly she finds herself drifting away from them but they are good friends and are still there for her when she needs them.

It's hard to talk about loving a book that is so bittersweet but I really did love this story. No, it's not anything new, this is the third book I've read in less than a year, about a teen diagnosed with cancer and I knew we had three possible endings (death, remission, open-ended) and I think Jessica's ending felt very realistic. The high school setting reminded me of being a teen, the stress of final year, being forced to wear our uniform correctly (this included hats on in public, ag!) and boys taking my mind of studying.

Everything Left Unsaid is a bittersweet story of best friends, first loves and a young man's battle with a terminal illness. It has a classic Australian feel to it and I know it will please fans of contemporary YA fiction.

Thank you to the wonderful people at Pan Macmillan for my review copy. Everything Left Unsaid will be published in August this year and will be available in local book shops and online stores.

Wendy Darling says

Well, I don't know what to say. Despite weepy reactions from a few friends, I didn't cry at all as I was reading this book, although I certainly felt a great deal of sympathy for the two young lovers who have to deal with one of them becoming terminally ill.

But 15 minutes after I finished the novel, I suddenly found myself bawling over something totally unrelated for no good reason at all. Bawling, as in I couldn't stop for a long time, despite my best efforts to control myself. Even though I'm prone to be rather emotional these days, I have to believe that part of the reason this happened is that the feelings this book brought to the surface still lingered.

While it's true that there are probably aspects that could have been more developed for a more well-rounded book, that's not the story the author chose to tell--and I'm okay with that, since it's not altogether unrealistic that it feels as though the world revolves around these two kids and what they are going through.

I thought this was a thoroughly frank, poignant portrayal of the way relationships and perception can change because of a serious illness, and the book deals honestly and respectfully with the human need to grieve, as well as to hang onto what we love most.

And as always, part of the joy of reading contemporary Aussie YA is experiencing the day to day life and slang and humor of teenagers halfway across the world. A terrific book, and an author I'm looking forward to reading again.

Obtaining a Copy

If you'd like to read this Aussie YA book, it's available online from Fishpond.com.au with free international shipping.

Angie says

This probably makes me a horrible person, but in general, cancer books just don't make me cry. I consider myself super emotional, but these stories just don't hit me for whatever reason. Everything Left Unsaid is without a doubt a great book, and very very depressing, but I just didn't get the emotional kick I was hoping for. It follows Juliet and Tai, life-long best friends who have finally admitted to their feelings for each other. Nearly as soon as their relationship begins, Tai learns that he has less than a year to live. What follows is a super sad story that doesn't really spare any of the details of Tai's illness. It's like a really bad thunder storm, but there's no rainbow the next day.

One issue that I had with Everything Left Unsaid was Juliet and her mother. I couldn't believe some of things that they said as Tai's illness progresses. Juliet's mom actually tries to ground her! Why in the world would she want to keep her daughter away from her best friend and boyfriend when he only has limited time left?! I do understand that she wanted her daughter to keep up with her studies, but university will still be there in a year, while Tai won't. She's also worried about them having sex, but seriously, they're 17, in love and don't have much time together. Get over it! Then at the end Juliet herself began to frustrate me. She complains that Tai doesn't text her all day long anymore and denies her invites to hang out. Um, he's too sick to even sit up in bed most days! How do you expect him to do everything he was able to before?! She even says things like the following:

“He's sick. Every time I see him he's sicker, and his parents have taken him and his brothers away for Christmas. It's like what I want doesn't even matter. It's just happening to me and I can't do anything about it.”

Excuse me? God forbid his parents want to have one last family holiday with their dying son! Juliet, this is not about you! You are not the only one about to lose him! Selfish!

Anyway, other than the above, I did enjoy Everything Left Unsaid. I felt awful for Tai as he struggles to come to terms with his death. He has major decisions to make but doesn't really have the physical or emotional strength to make them. His relationship with Juliet was very sweet in the beginning and they have some seriously mushy scenes together, even as his illness gets worse. However, in the end, it was just another cancer book that failed to make the world's biggest crybaby shed even a single tear. I do think it's

worth reading though if you have access to it.

Read more of my reviews at [Pinkindle Reads & Reviews](#).

Darkfallen says

This book is nothing short of amazing. It truly deserves way more than 5 stars. In fact I just might venture to say that it's the best book I've read...ever.

Juliet and Tai have been best friends since they met in kindergarten. They even jumped off the roof with umbrellas together trying to fly like Mary Poppins. (of course that didn't end well for either of them.) But now they are both getting ready to graduate from high school and they realize that they want more from each other. Unfortunately as their relationship grows and they plan for their future in college together fate steps in and has a mind of it's own. The reality is you can't always get what you want, and life is beyond cruel...

Yes this book is sad and tragic in the worst of ways. But you know by the title and the synopsis that you aren't going to get a *Happily Ever After*. Then again I think that is some of the beauty in this book. It's real life on paper. There are no white horse knights to save the day or music in the background every time they kiss. There's pain, and love, and the reality that you don't always get what you deserve. That life can be cruel for no reason at all.

Put it to you this way...I was sucked into the story from the first page. I fell in love with both of the main characters, Juliet & Tai, from the beginning. And I loved, LOVED that this is told from both of their POV's. It made it so much easier to *feel* everything that was going on. So much so that I was crying my eyes out in the first 60 pages, and the tears just kept on coming. I cried so hard, on more than one occasion, I had to put the book down and catch my breath. A steady stream of tears rolled down my face and dripped from my chin until the last page. And even though it hurt, even though something inside me started to unravel and eventually broke, I couldn't put this book down. I couldn't look away. I needed every word like I need air to breathe. And now that it's over I still want more. I want to know what happens now, and when I close my eyes to sleep at night this story haunts my dreams. I simply can't get it out of my head.

Overall I know that I could never find the words to do this book justice so you just need to pick it up for yourself. It's a tragic story of love, loss, and a grief so deep you'll feel your inside rip apart as you turn the pages.

Buy it, borrow it, rent it, steal it if you have to, but you simply have got to READ this book!

Jenny says

Sooooo, yeah. This is probably one of the more depressing cancer books I've read, though I'm not exactly sure what to point to and say, "This is what makes this book more depressing than the others." But the fact remains that at the end, I wasn't feeling that hopeful peaceful feeling. Maybe it's the realistic and devastatingly true way that the details and roller coaster of emotions are handled. Maybe it's the dual POVs of both the cancer patient and the person who loves the cancer patient. Maybe it's that nobody is stoic or brave in this situation in this story. The fear is evident and nobody thinks it'll be okay. And it's not okay. And in the end I still feel like none of this was okay. But it's authentic. And sad. I prefer *The Fault in Our Stars*, though, because I think I need that humor to lighten the mood in heavy subject books like these.

Stacia (the 2010 club) says

This isn't real This isn't real This isn't real

Those were Juliet's words. Here are mine.

Cute. Cute. Cute. Cute. Cute. Cute. Cute. Cute. Cute. Cute.
Sweet. Sweet. Sweet. Sweet. Sweet. Sweet. Sweet. Sweet. Sweet.
Nerve-wracking. Nerve-wracking. Nerve-wracking.
Adorable. Adorable. Adorable. Adorable. Adorable. Adorable.
Scary. Scary. Scary. Scary. Scary. Scary. Scary. Scary. Scary.
Emotional. Emotional. Emotional. Emotional. Emotional.
Gut-wrenching. Gut-wrenching. Gut-wrenching. Gut-wrenching.
Lovely. Lovely. Lovely. Lovely. Lovely. Lovely. Lovely. Lovely.
Horrible. Horrible. Horrible. Horrible. Horrible. Horrible.

I don't like the way I feel right now. I mean, I *really* do not like the way that I feel right now.

My feelings have me wanting to 1 star the book. My appreciation for such a beautifully crafted story wants me to 5 star the book.

Yes, there was an element of hope. No, I wasn't feeling it. I was so depressed by the end of this book that I couldn't absorb any positive vibes. I'm not sure why. I've read other books dealing with a similar subject matter and did not feel so bleak when I was finished. I might have to avoid the beach for a while.

Was this worth the read? Yes. *points back to the mention of beautiful writing*

For now, I just feel like I need to go hug my kids. And have a stiff drink. I'm sure that tomorrow when I wake up, I'll realize how incredible this story was. Until then, I'm wanting to shake it all off and start thinking happy thoughts.

Read as part of the Traveling Book Society for the group Rated YA-MA. The best part of experiencing this story was getting to read everyone's notes and add a few of my own. I apologize in advance for the juvenile naughty I pulled on your book Hillary...but hey, I immortalized my dog ear with a lovely note.

Louisa says

I am such a glutton for punishment. WHY DO I DO THIS TO MYSELF? Why did I have to read another *The Fault in Our Stars*-esque book, this time coached in a lovely Aussie setting (I do so love Aussie YA)?

It wasn't flawless or worth 5 stars, since it could have used some cleaning up. But I did ugly sob over the last 20 pages and found it a beautiful portrayal of a relationship rocked by the news of sudden and impending

death. Having personally gone through something like Tai, I found myself getting goosebumps over his diagnosis and treatment scenes. Then there was the ugly sobbing. I am a water tap and proud of it.

Shirley says

Everything Left Unsaid is a beautifully crafted story of young love, choices and what it means to lose someone you love. I've had my fair share of books with characters dying of diseases, and I'm happy to say Everything Left Unsaid did not disappoint! It's sweet, it's sad, and it will certainly leave you with an ache in your heart, but Everything Left Unsaid is definitely worth your time!

I absolutely loved Tai and Juliet's relationship! You could tell they really loved each other, and it was impossible not to feel their pain; having to battle through the last year of high school, (ONE year before freedom), only to be confronted with the one unthinkable obstacle – Tai being diagnosed with a brain tumour. *sobs* Their relationship felt realistic to me, and while both sides made some mistakes that irked me a little now and then, I was able to easily forgive them. (Given their situation, those feelings and actions were well...unavoidable). Tai and Juliet's perseverance throughout this difficult time was certainly admirable- *sigh* Why does fate have to be so cruel? Tai and Juliet totally deserved a happily ever after!!

I'm still debating whether I made the right decision in reading this before my HSC ...or perhaps I should've waited until after my HSC? On one hand, I certainly found it easy to relate to the characters and what they're experiencing- the stress of being in Year 12, cramming for exams (Gosh, that's a NIGHTMARE), the fear of not doing well enough to be accepted into Uni and of course, in between studying and attending school, the partying and girls night out! I honestly cannot imagine how Juliet managed to survive her final year- studying for finals AND on top of that, having to deal with the heartbreak of losing her best friend/boyfriend. However, I must admit, after reading this book, I'm left in fear of what's to become of my future. I'm reading about everyone being accepted into their first/second preferences, and feeling extremely happy for them but part of me is thinking "What if I don't get accepted"? (Okay, I'm trying REALLY hard not to think about that!)

Overall, Everything Left Unsaid is definitely a book you should look out for! While I wasn't too pleased with the beginning (everything happened too fast) but it's impossible not to be consumed by the power of the story as I read on! By the end, I was completely in love with everything about the book<3 Oh, and be sure to have a box of tissues next to you when you start reading! I guarantee you'll be bawling your eyes out by the end!

Marisabel Bonet-Cruz says

I bought this book on a visit to New Zealand, looking for different literature to take home. I do not read many books about this type of topic, death and cancer. However, when I discovered that it was the story of how this disease affects young people, I couldn't resist. I read it quickly, wishing to know what would happen. Sadly, from day one we knew the story wouldn't have a happy ending.

Yet, this book's value doesn't lie in the plot. It lies in the sweetness and the emotion hidden in the story as Tai and Juliet face the changes cancer brings into their lives. Love, faith, loyalty, friendship, family, and hope rise to the surface, even if it's a losing battle. We realize that memories are so precious, and we are grateful for the things we can enjoy while we are healthy.

The characters were realistic and truthful, which didn't detract from the story. The plot moved quickly and easily. At times, you are filled with fear and incredible sadness, as you realize this is the story of many young and old people out there in the world, right now. When you finish the book you are left with a sad feeling, but also with a sweet, melancholic smile. I am glad I read this book.
