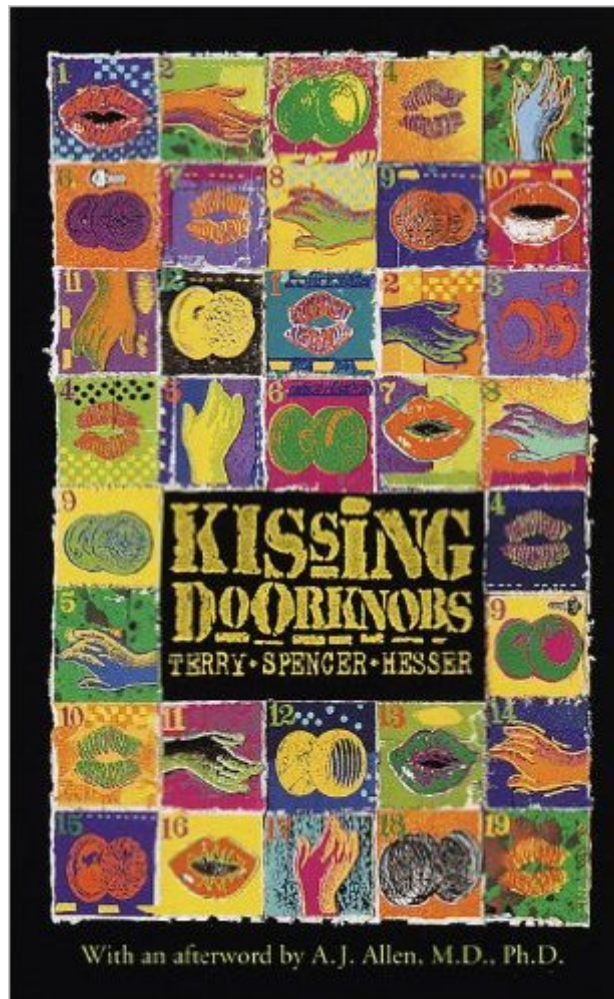


The book was found

# Kissing Doorknobs (Laurel-Leaf Books)



## Synopsis

During her preschool years, Tara Sullivan lived in terror that something bad would happen to her mother while they were apart. In grade school, she panicked during the practice fire drills. Practice for what?, Tara asked. For the upcoming disaster that was bound to happen? Then, at the age of 11, it happened. Tara heard the phrase that changed her life: Step on a crack, break your mother's back. Before Tara knew it, she was counting every crack in the sidewalk. Over time, Tara's "quirks" grew and developed: arranging her meals on plates, nonstop prayer rituals, until she developed a new ritual wherein she kissed her fingers and touched doorknobs....

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 730 (What's this?)

Mass Market Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Laurel Leaf (November 9, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0440413141

ISBN-13: 978-0440413141

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 0.4 x 6.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (115 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #216,638 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Special Needs](#) #139 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Prejudice & Racism](#) #268 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

I think the book *Kissing Doorknobs* is a must read. It's an incredible story and gives a lot of information on OCD (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder). This book is about a girl named Tara who discovers she is paying more attention to the cracks on the sidewalk after she hears the rhyme, "Step on a crack and break your mother's back." Slowly her problems get worse she talks to trolls, kisses the front doorknob every time she wants to leave the house, prays every time someone swears in front of her, worries about her parents staying out late, stays up until they get home, and organizes her food before she eats it. These problems become noticed by classmates who begin

teasing her. Her sister, Greta, wants to defend Tara and will even beat people up for her. Tara's mother gets really frustrated with Tara and hits her every time she kisses the doorknob. She repeatedly goes to psychiatrists that can't seem to help her. This continues until Tara's dad has a visitor over. This visitor knows about OCD and suggests that OCD might be what is causing Tara's problems. He gives her the name of a special psychiatrist that can help her, and the name and number of one of the doctor's patients. Tara does visit the "special" psychiatrist even though she "hates" her. She meets Sam, who has problems with washing his hands too often, and they begin to get involved...until an unexpected event happens and it changes everything. This book is one of the best books I have read in a long time. I couldn't wait to pick it up and let the book pull me in and fill the environment around me with its vivid details. I had to be forced to put it down because this book was the kind of book that you want to finish reading once you start it because of the suspense. I would recommend it to anyone because of its quality. I loved this book and hope there will be a sequel because of how abrupt the ending was.

Terry Spencer Hesser is an awesome author and she really knows how to make situations real. She made the novel "Kissing Doorknobs" an interesting story- also heartwarming. This book is about a girl named Tara facing OCD. Everyone around Tara is falling apart because of her strange rituals-even her own family. Every time her mother swears she always prays and her mother hates it. Throughout the book Tara goes through many changes in her OCD. Such rituals include touching the doorknob and kissing her hand, counting cracks in the sidewalk and walking over every crack, having hideous thoughts that her mother or father were dead in a ditch somewhere. Whenever someone would make fun of Tara her little sister Greta would go beat them up for her. Greta got suspended about three times throughout the book. Tara has a bunch of friends. One of her friends is an evil person. Donna her friend smokes and shoplifts. Tara once tried to shoplift but she turned herself in. Towards the end of the book she meets a boy who has OCD too. She never knew anyone else had the same thing she had. Sam (the boy with OCD) introduces Tara to a therapist for OCD. Tara goes to therapy and stops her rituals. Sometimes she can't help but to them but other times she can stop herself. I think people of all ages should read this book because it has good facts in it. This novel also presents another excellent idea. You should never treat a person with OCD any different from another person. Tara's friends only treat Tara differently when Tara was freaking out. If you want a good book to read go to your library and check out "Kissing Doorknobs" I guarantee that you won't want to put it down once you pick it up.

As I was reading *Kissing Doorknobs*, I was connecting with the main character, Tara, in so many ways! I could relate to everything that Tara did, said, felt or thought. I was thinking, "This girl is just like me! She has the same problems that are 'strange' and 'weird' and doesn't know why she has stupid thoughts!" Well, it turned out Tara was not crazy, she just had OCD.

(Obsessive-Compulsive-Disorder.) Little did I know, that 3 years later, I was about to find out why my life seemed so much like hers. I came into the doctor's office in 10th grade, 3 years after reading a book which made me almost sure I had OCD too. I initially went to see my doctor about sleeping problems, and came out diagnosed with OCD. "This explains everything!" I told my mom later. All my weird obsessions and rituals are all explained-and I'm not the only one in the world who has it either!" The solution to my problem was solved. I felt so much better, and I loved to see how there are other people out there with this mental disability such as myself. It was humorous, helpful, and thought provoking all in one. I highly recommend this book to anyone who thinks that they might be a little "weird!" :)

Story about a girl's downward spiral through obsessive compulsive disorder. Realistic details that anyone suffering OCD can relate to. It's a wonderful book. I cried after the first page because I knew how this girl felt. It's the only novel I have ever read about OCD that I wanted to read again. It's written for young adults, but, is enjoyable for all ages.

"Kissing Doorknobs" by Terry Spencer Hesser is about a girl named Tara who has obsessive-compulsive disorder. She does not know she has it so her, her friends, and her family think she is crazy. All her friends stop hanging out with her, because of all the strange things she does. Also, her parents fight a lot, because what she does drives them crazy. Finally, one of Tara's father's friends come over and figure out what she has. "Kissing Doorknobs" has many meanings. It says that even if life has you down, friends can help you through. In the book Tara has no friends until one day she meets a girl that becomes her best friend. Whenever she is around her friend she stops the strange things she does. So, when Tara was having a tough time a friend helped her out. The characters in the book were very well developed. They all had their own attitudes. The parents were fed up with Tara's strangeness and were always mad. Her sister and her friend were normally calm and not like her parents. Also, the author put a lot of emotion into the story. "Kissing Doorknobs" was a wonderful book. It was written very well and had a great meaning. It is a great book for teens.

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