



Word Nerd

Susin Nielsen

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Twelve-year-old Ambrose is a glass-half-full kind of guy. A self-described “friendless nerd,” he moves from place to place every couple of years with his overprotective mother, Irene. When some bullies at his new school almost kill him by slipping a peanut into his sandwich — even though they know he has a deathly allergy — Ambrose is philosophical. Irene, however, is not and decides that Ambrose will be home-schooled.

Alone in the evenings when Irene goes to work, Ambrose pesters Cosmo, the twenty-five-year-old son of the Greek landlords who live upstairs. Cosmo has just been released from jail for breaking and entering to support a drug habit. Quite by accident, Ambrose discovers that they share a love of Scrabble and coerces Cosmo into taking him to the West Side Scrabble Club, where Cosmo falls for Amanda, the club director. Posing as Ambrose’s Big Brother to impress her, Cosmo is motivated to take Ambrose to the weekly meetings and to give him lessons in self-defense. Cosmo, Amanda, and Ambrose soon form an unlikely alliance and, for the first time in his life, Ambrose blossoms. The characters at the Scrabble Club come to embrace Ambrose for who he is and for their shared love of words. There’s only one problem: Irene has no idea what Ambrose is up to.

In this brilliantly observed novel, author Susin Nielsen transports the reader to the world of competitive Scrabble as seen from the honest yet funny viewpoint of a boy who’s searching for acceptance and for a place to call home.

From the Hardcover edition.

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From reader reviews:

Inez Morales:

Playing with family within a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Word Nerd, you are able to enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its called reading friends.

Joyce McDonald:

Are you kind of busy person, only have 10 or maybe 15 minute in your day to upgrading your mind talent or thinking skill actually analytical thinking? Then you are experiencing problem with the book when compared with can satisfy your short time to read it because this all time you only find guide that need more time to be learn. Word Nerd can be your answer mainly because it can be read by an individual who have those short extra time problems.

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