



## **Rules for Secret Keeping**

*Lauren Barnholdt*

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Samantha Carmichael has made a business out of shuttling secrets—drop your secret and a dollar into locker #321, and it gets anonymously delivered without being read. Samantha ensures confidentiality and discretion, and her gig is so successful that *You Girl* magazine has named her a finalist for Tween Entrepreneur of the Year. But when her classmate Olivia starts a secret-passing business of her own, Sam learns that imitation is not always the sincerest form of flattery. And when a secret leaks out that puts Sam's own clandestine crush at stake, the battle of the businesses gets personal.

## **Rules for Secret Keeping Details**

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Author : Lauren Barnholdt

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## **From Reader Review Rules for Secret Keeping for online ebook**

### **Katie Fitzgerald says**

In elementary school, Samantha Carmichael ran a highly successful secret-passing business. Classmates could drop a secret and one dollar in her locker, and Samantha would then deliver the secret to its recipient without peeking. After *You Girl* magazine recognizes her for her entrepreneurial spirit, Samantha sees no reason not to continue her business in middle school. Unfortunately, though, her middle school classmates aren't as nice as her old friends, and soon, a rival business, with digital delivery options, seriously threatens her success. Between business woes, a new crush on her best friend, Jake, and an ongoing war between her father and stepfather, life in middle school is much more complicated than Samantha ever expected!

Lauren Barnholdt's tween novels never disappoint. They are somewhat formulaic, given that every one of her protagonists finds herself caught in some kind of lie, but aside from that predictable overarching theme, each book is fresh and brand-new, offering a creative look at middle school life. Samantha's secret-passing business is a unique concept, which Barnholdt develops very well. The strength of character Samantha demonstrates by refusing to peek at the secrets, even when dared to do so, is a quality many girls can relate to, as well as a strong example of staying true to oneself even when the peer pressure is on. Most girls probably haven't found themselves in Samantha's exact situation, but her feelings of wanting to be accepted while also wanting to do the right thing are universally understood by middle schoolers everywhere.

Girls who like stories about school and friendship, combined with a hint of romance, and a bit of family drama, will eat this book up.

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### **Aryeh Pamensky says**

#### **Great book**

I am 11 but a little bit more sophisticated and I really enjoyed this book! I am so impressed that I didn't find it too young which happens a lot! Thanks so much  
Happy reading love, Rachel

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### **Jazmin Perez says**

I chose this book because it had an interesting cover. This book is about Samantha and her secret passing business. When she enters seventh grade she realizes that someone else wants to take over her job and probably the boy of her dreams. "Jake's our best friend. Well, he was our best friend, until the end of last year when suddenly I decided that he and I should be more than best friends." This is my favorite quote because it shows how people change even when they don't want to. I really liked the author's writing style because it was really detailed and sometimes it left cliffhangers. I would recommend this book to teens that enjoy reading romance and mystery books.

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## **Carmel says**

Genre: Romantic Comedy

POV: Samantha's (1st person)

Reading Level: Teens

Purchased the book.

I expected a lot from this book because I really liked Scarlett ( from Four Truths and a Lie, another book of Lauren Barnholdt).

Unfortunately, I did not like this compared to the other book. Though the plot was good, passing of secrets and all that, but that was not enough for me to really love the book.

I felt that the ending was rushed because I was like, "That was it?" There were no high or low moments. I felt it was monotonous.

Overall, it is still a cute story somehow. I wish the author added more Samantha-Jake moments.

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## **Danni says**

Fun.

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## **Sps says**

Review for work:

Classic chick-lit-Jr., with all the genre conventions that implies. Samantha, the main character, has just started middle-school with a crush on her best guy friend and some drama brewing with her best girl friend. Meanwhile, her secret-passing business is declining, and she's afraid this will jeopardize both her businessman father's regard as well as her shot at a teen magazine prize for Entrepreneur of the Year. Her mom and older sister are supportive, as is her (very nurturing, decidedly not wicked) stepfather. Embarrassing moments, trouble with the popular clique, crush heartache, and a happy ending are de rigeur for the genre. This stood out slightly for its whinier-than-usual protagonist and for the blended family elements. In this case, it's Samantha's father who dislikes her stepfather, making life difficult for his ex-wife and daughters, and the stepfather who is kinder and more easygoing. If The Secret Identity of Devon Delaney or the Candy Apple series books circulate well at your location, so will this.

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## **Samantha says**

This book is one of my favorites. I love the fact that you can learn a lot from it. This book sets off so many emotions. I love the fact that the character was brave enough to tell her crush she liked him. This book is also very juicy because you always want to know what will happen next. To me its kind of funny because the girl is so young and she wants to start a business. I really recommend this book because it is so good.

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## **Megan says**

Rules for Secret Keeping by Lauren Barnholdt:

"This realistic fiction book is about a girl named Samantha Carmichael. Samantha is in seventh grade and she has a crush on one of her best friends Jake. She tries to figure out if he likes her back. Samantha has a chance to be on You Girl magazine from her new business called Samantha's Secret Passing. But a mean girl named Olivia copies her idea of the secret passing business and tries to make it her own. So Samantha, her best friend Daphne, and Jake have to try to come up with a way to stop her."

This book is a little bit of both mystery and romance in some parts. I think the author did a good job at the end of the chapters (not leaving cliffhangers) except for one chapter when it said "Its okay" She looks at me, her eyes shining. "So do you want to see what i found out about Olivia?" And that was the end of that chapter.

The author does do a good job on making me feel like I'm at the middle school or Samantha's house because the author uses words that describe stuff that would actually be at a school or a girl's bedroom like desk, diary, zebra print rug, lockers, and a math book. Stuff like that. This was one of my favorite books I have ever read, and if you'r like me this will be one of your favorite books too.

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## **Paige Aloise says**

This is one of my favorite books I have EVER read. If you like books about girls our age then this is a great book full of drama and secrets! You have to read this book. The author is such a good one and she also wrote other very good books. But this is the best book I have ever read. But if you do not like abbreviations like caf instead of cafeteria and fab instead of fabulous. But you have to read it. In the first 2 days I was reading it I was on page 175. It is so good!!!

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## **Rachel says**

This is a really good book!

Samantha Carmichael owns a secret passing business.

- 1) you write a note
  - 2) you write then name of who you want to deliver the note to on top of the note
  - 3) paper clip a dollar to the note and deliver it to Samantha's locker
- Samantha would therefore take of the dollar and deliver the note asap without reading it.

This business is so successful that she gets nominated for the you girl award! Entering the 7th grade things get complicated after the summer of "the scandalous skateboard incident" or tssi as Samantha likes to refer to it as. That summer it turns out that Samantha likes her friend jake. This year Samantha wants to maybe become more than friends with jake but with a plastic friend that's more plastic than Barbie, Emma, Samantha doesn't have any time to spice things up because Emma likes jake and they keep on passing notes back and forth! And to make things worse Olivia, another girl in their grade,opens up a more high tech version of passing notes! It turns out that Olivia is reading the secrets but how are they gonna bust her before

Samantha goes outta business?!  
Lauren barnholdt did a great job just like always!  
Read this book it's awesome! I hope you like it as much as I did!

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### **Gavin S. says**

Rules for secret keeping, by Lauren barnholdt is about a girl named Samantha in 7th grade, that has a business that lets people send secrets anonymously. She has a crush on a boy named jake, but there's another boy that has liked Samantha since they were in 2nd grade. Olivia has a secret passing business as well Samantha and Olivia are rival businesses and Jake uses Olivia's. Samantha finds out, but doesn't get mad. Jake sent this secret to someone he likes. Samantha has a hard time dealing with whether or not Jake likes her. Rules for secret keeping is a realistic fiction book because it takes place at a school and everything that happens could happen in anyone's life. This book was a great book. It has lots of interesting parts, but had lots of parts that had no action. Someone that would like this book is a 12-13 year old that like romance.

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### **Ainsley says**

Dear Ms.Greenhouse,

I finished the book Rules for Secret Keeping today it was the best book I ever read I'm not joking it was that good.It had about a million themes,I made a list of some below:

- 1.romance
- 2.action
- 3.drama
- 4.mystery
- 5.bravery

and lots more,but now I'm going to give some examples of why the things that are listed (above) are themes,here I go first off how there's romance is there is one kiss and one almost kiss it's not like the basic theme is romance,the reason there's action is you never know what there might be when you turn the page,the reason there's drama is because there's a part where you're like are they friends or not.You know what I mean?The reason why it's mystery is because there's a part where you like when is she going to tell him that she like's him,the reason there's bravery on the list because its like wow she's so brave to finally tell him that she like's him.Those are my reason's why I have a list of all those themes.

**!MY OPINION!**

Love,  
Ainsley

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### **r o s e says**

It was an awesome book with a lot of twists and turns, that I never expected. The ending especially was probably the most romantic and beautiful thing ever. I totes ship it!

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### **Ama says**

Sooooo gooooooddd????????????

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### **Heenly Pelayo says**

I love lauren barnholdt, she is my current favorite author and I love her books. When I read her books I feel like I'm living in the book I read! I love when an author makes me feel this way which almost never happens because I'm so picky when it comes to books. But anyways this book is basically about a girl named Samantha who has a business in her locker has a rival trying to steal her business, she crushes on her best guy friend and has to deal with being on a magazine trouble. She tries to get out of this trouble by trying many things too. I recommend this book to a girl who likes chick-flicks. This book is amazing and I think you'll push things aside just to read it!

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