



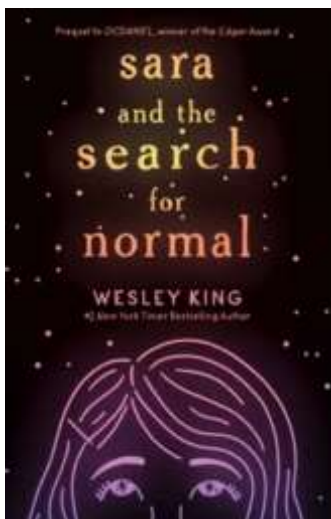
IODE CANADA EXPRESS NEWS

Sara and the Search for Normal

Winner of the 2021 IODE Violet Downey Book Award for children's literature

Wesley King, author of *Sara and the Search for Normal*, has been awarded The National Chapter of Canada IODE Violet Downey Book Award for 2021. The \$5,000 prize was presented at the time of the 121st National Annual Meeting of IODE Canada on Friday, 04 June 2021 via videoconference. Published by Simon & Schuster, this book is suitable for children over eight.

Wesley King is the author of the Edgar Award-winning *OCDaniel*, which Booklist praised as "complex and satisfying" in a starred review. It was named a Bank Street Best Book of the Year and received Canada's Silver Birch Award. Its companion, *Sara and the Search for Normal*, received a starred review from School Library Journal. King's first middle grade novel, *The Incredible Space Raiders from Space!*, was called "a well-drafted coming-of-age story" by Publishers Weekly. His book, *Laura Monster Crusher*, received the IODE Violet Downey Book Award for 2018. King is also the author of Kobe Bryant's New York Times bestselling *Wizenard* series.



In this prequel to the Edgar Award-winning *OCDaniel*, fan-favorite Sara quests for "normal" and finds something even better along the way.

Sara's Rules to be Normal

1. Stop taking your pills
19. Make a friend
137. Don't put mayonnaise on peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

Sara wants one thing: to be normal. What she has instead are multiple diagnoses from Dr. Ring. Sara's constant battle with False Alarm - what she calls panic attacks and other episodes cause her to isolate herself.

She rarely speaks, especially not at school, and so she doesn't have any friends. But when she starts group therapy she meets someone new. Talkative and

outgoing Erin doesn't believe in "normal," and Sara finds herself in unfamiliar territory: at the movies, at a birthday party and with someone to tell about her crush—in short, with a friend. But, there's more to Erin than her cheerful exterior and Sara begins to wonder if helping Erin will mean sacrificing their friendship.

As of 2020, Canadian author Wesley King has written eleven novels. King was born in Ajax, Ontario, graduated with a Journalism Degree from Carleton University and currently resides in Lake Echo, Nova Scotia.

In normal times, copies of the award-winning book are available for purchase by members attending the National Annual Meeting. This year, that was not possible so we are offering the following suggestions. We encourage you to purchase the book through your local bookseller; this will also benefit their bottom line at this time of economic downturn. Or, consider purchasing an Indigo "Shop to Give" gift card through the **IODE Snack Pack Fundraising** icon on the IODE Canada website <https://www.iode.ca/iode-snack-pack-fundraising-campaign-iode-shop-to-give>. Use the gift card to purchase your copies of *Sara and the Search for Normal* through Indigo, giving Snack Pack 15% of the gift card value! Please consider buying this book for children you know. Also consider donating this book to your local schools and libraries as usual and think about agencies with children who are in need of a treat such as shelters for moms and kids and food banks that are distributing books along with groceries.

The IODE Canada office has a supply of bookplates and gold seals to identify the award-winning books. We will be happy to send these to you FREE OF CHARGE to affix to your purchases. We ask that chapter members consolidate their requests to reduce mailing costs. Please send your name, address, telephone number, IODE chapter and the quantity of bookplates and seals you require to iodecanada@bellnet.ca.

Founded in 1900, IODE Canada is a national women's charitable organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for individuals through education support, community services and citizenship programs. For more information about our organization and charitable work, please visit our website.