



## Finally

By Wendy Mass

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### Finally By Wendy Mass

Turning 12 isn't all it's cracked up to be!

Get a cell phone. Stay home alone. Go to the mall with best friend and No Parents. Wear makeup. Get contact lenses. Attend a boy-girl party. Rory Swenson has been waiting her whole life to turn twelve. And she's got a list to prove it. Whenever Rory asks her parents for something, they always say, "When you're twelve . . ." Well, in exactly, 18 hours, 36 minutes, and 52 seconds it will finally happen. Rory's life will officially begin!

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### Editorial Review

#### From School Library Journal

Grade 4-7 Rory Swenson just can't catch a break. She's been waiting for what seems like forever for her 12th birthday. According to her parents' rules, that is the magical age when she'll finally be able to partake in many formerly forbidden activities such as wearing contact lenses, getting a pet, owning a cell phone, piercing her ears, and staying home alone. Now that the day has finally come, she finds that growing up isn't as satisfying as she imagined. She's completely unprepared for the minor disasters that result: her new pet bunny seems homicidal staying home alone is scarier than she thought and her attempt at having her ears pierced reveals an allergy to gold. The only silver lining is her growing friendship with movie-star Jake Harrison, who is filming at her school. There's a nice twist at the end, when the many good deeds Rory has done without thinking of herself pay off, and she realizes that her misfortunes are minor. This novel pairs well with Mass's *11 Birthdays* (Scholastic, 2009), but it stands on its own. Children will relate to this warm, funny story of a heroine who can't wait to grow up. *Madigan McGillicuddy, Los Angeles Public Library*  
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#### From [Booklist](#)

Rory has a list of things she longs to do when she turns 12: stay home alone, shave her legs, babysit, wear makeup, drink coffee . . . So overprotected that she has never ridden in the front seat of a car, Rory can't wait for her birthday. But those long-anticipated experiences bring some disconcerting surprises. In this sequel to *11 Birthdays* (2009), Amanda and Leo play minor roles and wise woman Angelina works her magic again. Rory's lively first-person narrative clearly expresses her emotions as she seesaws between longing and fear, confidence and insecurity. The jacket photo will attract tween readers. Grades 4-7. --Carolyn Phelan

#### Review

“Finally is a treat—a delicious story about fitting in, falling down, and growing up. Wendy Mass has done it again!”—Rebecca Stead, author of *When You Reach Me*

A Washington Post KidsPost Summer Book Club selection

“Author Wendy Mass captures the frustration of pre-teens as they reach the magical time that allows them to begin experiencing tidbits from the grown-up world. Finally will have readers laughing, nodding in agreement, and sighing in sympathy as they follow Rory's tale of reaching 12.”—Teensreadtoo.com

“Children will relate to this warm, funny story of a heroine who can't wait to grow up.”—School Library Journal

“Rory's lively first-person narrative clearly expresses her emotions as she seesaws between longing and fear, confidence and insecurity. The jacket photo will attract tween readers.”—Booklist

“Rory's chatty, friendly voice and relentless optimism in the face of her many mishaps are heartwarming.”—Publishers Weekly

“A funny story that will appeal particularly to girls who are just learning what it means to begin growing up.”—Rave Reviews Log, blog review

“I was either smiling, chuckling, or outright laughing all through this book.”—Everead, blog review

“Finally is a fast-paced, hilarious novel...Mass captures an authentic 12-year-old here that never once feels forced, too old, or too young.”—Stacked, blog review

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### **Nathan Herr:**

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a book. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the guide entitled Finally. Try to the actual book Finally as your friend. It means that it can to get your friend when you experience alone and beside associated with course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortuned in your case. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , we should make new experience and also knowledge with this book.

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