



*Tell Me Three Things* by Julie Buxbaum  
Reviewed by Sophia



Stand Alone

*Tell Me Three Things* is considered a Young Adult, Romance, and Realistic Fiction novel.

### **Give a summary without spoilers!**

*Tell Me Three Things* tells the story of Jessie, a teenage girl, who has recently moved to California from her hometown in Chicago due to her father remarrying. In Chicago, Jessie's mother had passed away from cancer. After her death, Jessie's father quickly remarried to a woman Jessie did not know well. Her life is turned upside down: now she has a step-brother, step-mother, and goes to private school full of fake blondes. Shortly after her first day at Wood Valley High School, Jessie begins to receive emails from an unknown sender from her school. Soon enough, Jessie and SN form a bond through shared experiences and telling three facts about each other every day. Jessie is determined to find out Somebody/Nobody's (SN's) identity, but they are reluctant to give her that information. Using SN's daily three facts, Jessie hunts for her anonymous friend.

### **What drew you to this book?**

I was drawn to this book for a number of reasons. For starters, I had never read a novel that had a character with a mystery identity. I was intrigued by the storyline and I wanted to know who SN was. I also wanted something that was quick and easy to read to get me back into reading. Previously, I had read a book series I really enjoyed and I was struggling to find a book that was just as good. This book kept me on my toes. Whenever I thought I knew where the plot was going, something happened that changed my mind. This book had my complete attention.

### **Did it remind you of something that you've previously read?**

While the plots of the media are completely different, *Tell Me Three Things* reminds me of the *Perks of Being a Wallflower* movie. In the movie, there is a specific scene where the main character, Charlie, is talking to his friend Sam about how they are more alike than she thinks and how they have experienced similar things. This scene reminds me of how Jessie and SN connect over shared experiences. Both characters bond over events that have greatly impacted their lives and their families. This is one of the

reasons they become so close. They understand each other on a level that other people can not.

**To whom would you recommend this book?**

I would recommend this book to anyone looking for a quick read that will keep you engaged. Tell Me Three Things has a plot that is easy to follow, but will make you keep reading to find SN's identity. I would also recommend this book to all young adult romance fans who are craving a love story that talks about important themes. While Tell Me Three Things is mainly a happy book, it also addresses important themes such as grief and family relationships. Overall, this book is perfect for anyone looking for a romance that references deeper topics relevant to today.

**Overall, did you like it and would you recommend it to others?**

Overall, I liked the book a lot and I would definitely recommend it to others. It was fun to read and kept me wanting more. Once I got into the plot, I could not put the book down. I enjoyed learning about who Jessie thought was SN and determining whether I agreed or not. Even if I thought her guesses were completely improbable, somehow I always found myself considering if each person could actually be SN. Anonymous sender aside, I really liked that Julie Buxbaum did not sugar coat Jessie's relationship with her new family. I liked following Jessie's ups and downs as she found where she fit into each family member's life.

**Anything else that you would like to add to this review? What made you choose it? Did you like the cover? Was it recommended to you? Did you find it at the library?**

I chose this book because at the time I had just finished a book series and was struggling to find another book that could compete with the series. I wanted something that was available right away, so I looked for something on the library app. Tell Me Three Things was one of the only books that interested me and had no wait. I was hesitant because I tend to be pretty picky with the types of books I like, and I had not heard anything about this book prior to reading it. In the end, I was completely surprised by how much I enjoyed the book. I liked the pace of the plot as well as the romance that developed.