

## Three Things I Know Are True Book PDF Download



By:  
**Betty Culley**

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### Jenny Chou

Three Things I know Are True by Betty Culley (HarperTeen, January 7, 2020, \$17.99, 9780062908025)

I'm always dazzled by writers who can tell a story through verse, with each word fitted like the exact right puzzle piece into a landscape that is both sparse and complex at the same time. At the center of Three Things I know Are True, Liv struggles emotionally while her daredevil brother Jonah struggles physically with the new reality of his traumatic brain injury. Liv's bond with her brother allows

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## Layla (Between the Lines)

is a story told completely in verse, which only makes it so much more impressive when you consider the heavy subject matter. Heartbreak and hope are simultaneously splattered on every page, line after line, thought after thought. This is a book you can read quicklyâ€”but you won't want to. You'll want to take your time.

Disclaimer: I received this ARC from HCC Frenzy because I requested it. All thoughts and

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## Meliss

This book is a truly stunning debut. Yes, it's a story about gun violence, but it isn't only a battle cry for reform. At the heart of it, it's a novel about the resiliency of siblings and the necessity of finding someone who understands what you're going through. This is a must-read story that will warm your heart and break it at the same time.

## Liza Wiemer

I received an ARC through my local indie bookstore.

Goofing off. That's what Liv's brother was doing when he picked up a gun, held it up to his temple and pulled the trigger. Author Betty Culley takes a painful, tragic, heartbreaking situation and brings it to the reader in an eloquent, lyrical, and touching story. Using free verse poetry, Betty shares the journey that Liv and her family go through after her older brother Jonah makes a tragic mistake in judgment.

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So many things left me in awe of this story:

1. Liv is the kind of sister anyone would be fortunate to have. She's loyal, protective, compassionate, and present. Although Liv is devastated by this tragedy, she doesn't place the blame on her brother's best friend, Clay, who was with Jonah when it happened.
2. Jonah's caregivers. The love and devotion show these nurses not as people who are just doing their job, but as members of the family. It's beautiful and should be a measure for anyone who has to have people home care.
3. Clay has to deal with a tremendous amount of guilt and with a father who refuses to accept responsibility for leaving a loaded gun. I can't even imagine such pain, but the way Clay takes charge of his life will be inspiring to others.
4. What amazed me about Betty's novel is that she shows the impact and responsibility of guns in a way that allows teens to think about the issues.

## Susan's Reviews

This story is written in free verse style. I really liked the flow of this narrative style.

Liv, her older brother Jonah and their neighbour Clay are friends. One day, Jonah is playing around with one of Clay's dad's handguns when it goes off and severely injures him.

This time, Jonah's typical tom-foolery changes all of their lives. Liv and Clay have deep feelings for each other, but Liv's mother is suing Clay's family and blames his entire family for the fact that Jonah had access to a loaded

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This time, Jonah's typical tom-foolery changes all of their lives. Liv and Clay have deep feelings for each other, but Liv's mother is suing Clay's family and blames his entire family for the fact that Jonah had access to a loaded gun in their home. Jonah was always a foolhardy risk taker, but Clay's father had left the gun on the window ledge in the attic. Clay's father was shooting at squirrels that kept raiding the bird feeder.

The civil action against Clay's parents stirs up controversy in the town regarding gun control. Lines are drawn. At one point, Clay leaves home and takes a job on a local organic dairy farm. Liv and Clay find their way back to one another, once all the anger and guilt feelings have had a chance to cool. Even Liv's Mom accepts Clay's place in Liv's life.

I highly recommend this quiet, but deeply emotional recounting of a tragic event that changed the course of two families' lives in the town of Maddigan, Maine. Just a beautiful read!