

## **Tell Me Three Things**

**Julie Buxbaum**

**Reviewed by Rachel Johnson, 42**

**Teen Star Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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Jessie Holmes is 16-years old. Her mother passed away a couple of years ago and she lives with her father in Chicago. One day her father comes home from what was supposed to be a work trip and tells her he was away getting married to Rachel whom he met online. Rachel is rich and Jessies dad has decided that they will be moving to Los Angeles to live with her, and her son Theo. Jessie is upset that her dad made these decisions without talking to her. Life in Los Angeles is different, her father does not have much time for her, she is sent to a private school where all the kids come from rich families, she does not have any friends and she is being bullied.

Jessie receives an email from a stranger who calls himself Somebody/Nobody. He says he goes to school with her and offers to be a sort of guide for her as she navigates the new school, only he insists on keeping his identity secret. First Jessie thinks it is all a joke, but she finally warms up to the idea and becomes good friends with Somebody/Nobody via Instant Messages. Somebody/Nobody gives Jessie advice that helps her meet new friends and now she has someone to confide in. They get to know each other by sharing three things about themselves each day. As their friendship grows, Jessie becomes more curious about who he is. She has some ideas about his identity, but she is not sure. He finally decides it is time to meet and they set a date. Will she be disappointed when she finds out who he is? Will their relationship be the same?

Tell Me Three Things is a fun and entertaining book. The plot is unique, the characters are realistic, and the descriptions are vivid. Jessie is a beautifully written character that is trying to find her place while feeling that she has lost everything. Although the story deals with the grief of losing a loved one, there is plenty of humor and romance in this story. The author did an excellent job bringing Jessies emotions to life. I enjoyed reading about her journey from feeling like she was alone to feeling like she belonged. I also liked the emphasis on communication within families. One thing I did not like was that the bullying almost felt condoned by the school because of large donations made by parents. Some things to be aware of is underage drinking, drug, sex, some strong language, and death. Overall, the story is very enjoyable, moves at a good pace and will keep you guessing till the very end. I would recommend it to mature readers age 16+. Check it at out at your local library.

### **Recommended Titles**

What I Like About You, by Marisa Kanter

The Truth About Forever, by Sarah Dessen

A Sky Painted Gold, Laura Wood