



***The Truth About Alice* by Jennifer Mathieu**

Roaring Brook Press, Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2014

ISBN: 9781250063021 (Paperback)

\*Age Range: 12 - 18 (Suggested by Publisher)

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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By the author of *Moxie*, a powerful feminist novel that deals with slut-shaming, told through the perspectives of four small-town teens, about how everyone has a motive to bring—and keep—a teen girl down.

Winner of the Children's Choice Book Awards' Teen Choice Debut Author Award

Everyone knows Alice slept with two guys at one party. When Healy High star quarterback Brandon Fitzsimmons dies in a car crash, it was because he was sexting with Alice. Ask anybody.

Rumor has it Alice Franklin is a slut. It's written all over the "slut stall" in the girls' bathroom: "Alice had sex in exchange for math test answers" and "Alice got an abortion last semester." After Brandon dies, the rumors start to spiral out of control. In this remarkable debut novel, four Healy High students tell all they "know" about Alice—and in doing so reveal their own secrets and motivations, painting a raw look at the realities of teen life. But in this novel from Jennifer Mathieu, exactly what is the truth about Alice? In the end there's only one person to ask: Alice herself.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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★ "Fans of *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson and *Speechless* by Hannah Harrington will welcome first time author Mathieu, who has crafted a realistic and hard-hitting debut." —VOYA, **starred review**

"A tough, unapologetic look at slut-shaming from a promising new voice." —*Booklist*

"Swift pace and compact size may entice reluctant readers as well as those interested in a juicy yet thoughtful take on human dynamics." —*BCCB*

"Debut author Mathieu brings new life to a common girls' narrative through her multiple first-person narrators." —[Kirkus Reviews](#)

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"Each narrator shares elements of culpability for the rumors and mistreatment of Alice, and teens are introduced to the potential damage that rumors and lies bring." —*School Library Journal*

"Alice gets the final word, yet Mathieu avoids reducing her story to a revenge narrative, instead offering a quietly powerful testament to perspective and personal resilience." —*Publisher's Weekly*

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- Apple iBooks Best of the Year
- ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adults
- Florida Teens Read Award Master List
- Fall 2014 Junior Library Guild Selection
- 2015 Children's Book Choice Teen Choice Debut Author
- Amazon Editors' Pick for Best Young Adult Books of 2014

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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- [Houstonia Magazine Interview](#)
- [Houston Chronicle Interview](#)
- [Discussion Guide](#)
- [The Daily Beast Interview](#)

## AUTHOR STATEMENT

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"As an English teacher and a mom, I know how important it is to provide the opportunity for young people to read and connect with stories that both validate their experiences and give them insight into the experiences of others. When we censor books, we take those opportunities away, and I believe this results in a society that is less democratic and less empathetic. Censoring books doesn't serve us as a people, and we all need to work against it." – Jennifer Mathieu

## \*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.