

LoveReading Reader reviews of All The Truth That's In Me by Julie Berry

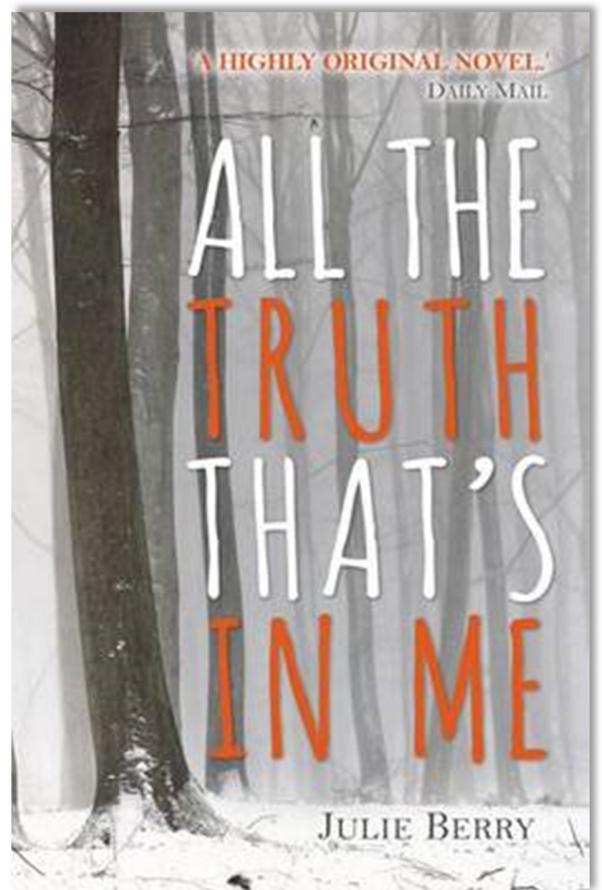
Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

Alice Horncastle, age 14

'All The Truth That's In Me' gripped me from the very start. The short chapters and gripping cliffhangers grabbed my attention, and I was soon lost in the horrific and yet enthralling plot.

I found myself warming to the main character Judith straight away, and I loved the way she was so devoted to Lucas. I found the book quite hard to understand at the start, but once I got into it I found it extremely unputdownable! The fact it was set in the past interested me a lot, as there was a lot about the cultures and events at that time, such as war. When I realized the plot was mainly on a mystery theme, I started guessing who had done it and was very surprised at the end to find out I was wrong! A brilliant book.

You can follow Alice's blog at:
www.11horncastlea.wordpress.com



Ruby Woods, age 16

A unique read, which allows the reader to jump into a different world and uncover Judith's story.

'All the Truth That's in Me' is written from the point of view of the protagonist, Judith. When she has come home mute, she must deal with her mothers resentment and the social embarrassment of not being able to speak. The book switches from past to present, piecing together the complex story of what has

happened to Judith. The whole book is written to a boy, who we later learn is Lucas. By seeing it through her eyes we are completely absorbed into her character, but also get the personal feeling from her as she addresses Lucas in the second person, it is as if we are both Judith and Lucas. When her friend Maria, teaches her to speak, the language fully allows the reader to understand and imagine what she would sound like as Julie Berry spells out phonetically the words Judith speaks. We are placed in her world and never for one moment disbelieve what we are being told, **it is written so cleverly that every word we read leaves us gasping for the next** and we discover the untold story covered for many years. It feels like a book lost in time, and we are the only ones who know the secret it holds.

Ciara McIlvenna, age 16

This novel has an interesting and unique message that will stay with you long after you have turned the last page.

It's very different from anything I've ever read before. The voice expressed in the novel is full of pain, love and struggle.

Delilah Acworth, age 14

*'All The Truth That's In Me' was certainly a different angle of writing! The first quarter of the book was hard to grasp and I found my self confused by the detailed storyline but having reached the end of it I am extremely gratified to have been able to read it. It's the type of story that infuriates you, the way you just want to yell at Judith to speak out or run away. I find they are always the best books however, no matter how infuriating. **It is a stunning tale full of unrequited love and damaged souls.***

Izzy Read, age 13

Judith went missing for two years; and came back with only part of her tongue. Two years later she is the shame of the village, is forbidden to speak, almost no one address's her by name and the love of her life is marrying someone else. But as she comes out of her silence the truth of her whereabouts for two years finally come to light...

This book was so original; set in 19th century America, Judith spoke in first person, speaking to Lucas, the one who stole her heart. No other book compares

to the heart-breaking ups and downs of Judith's life that almost tear her apart. You fall in love- or hate- with the characters, they are almost jumping out of the page at you. **Overall it was an amazing book I would highly recommend to history lovers or a romance hunter.**

Ella Grabsky, age 14

'All the Truth That's In Me' is a story about a girl named Judith who after being missing for two years returns to her home village with her tongue cut out. The only way to tell her story is by writing it all down to the person she has loved for a very long time. The book is written like a diary with lots of different entries. I found the way the novel was written hard to warm to and I couldn't connect with the characters. It also takes quite a while before you find out what happened to Judith and whilst this may have secured some readers' interest, it did the opposite for me and I became impatient and frustrated with the lack of development in the story. The language wasn't written in a colloquial form and so you often had to really think about what you were reading which could sometimes get in the way of the story.

"But you are gone, and the skeletal families who are here in town are closeted together to cry or celebrate".

I found that I could understand the language but felt that it was almost unnecessary for the novel to be written that way. I know that the language helps to tell you when and where the story is set but the language didn't need to be quite so elaborate in my opinion.

I think the plot is a good one but some readers may struggle with the unfamiliar writing style.

Daisy Sawyer, age 14

An absolutely amazing read. I really couldn't put it down. I would recommend this book to everyone who likes a fast, unpredictable plot.

This is a hauntingly beautiful book about a girl who, after being abducted is returned to her village with her tongue cut out. While this book could be classed as a romance novel, I believe it is suitable for all readers, even those who don't particularly like all that soppy stuff!

I am in love with the way this book is written as it is certainly different from the norm. The plot itself is amazing! While it is a simple idea – a medieval village where a mute girl lives – the plot still manages to grab you and present you with a totally unpredictable ending.

Another thing I liked about this book is that the story is very natural: it doesn't feel like the main character is talking to the reader which sometimes happens when stories are written in first person. You don't find out the full story of what happens straight away, only bits and pieces, which lets the story flow. I didn't want to put this book down.

*In short, this is a fantastic book, with an amazing plot, good for non-romance lovers and lovers alike. **You will remember this book for a long time after reading it.***

Jade Craddock, Teen

'All the Truth That's in Me' is a hugely original read focusing on Judith, a girl who has returned home, after being missing for two years, with her tongue cut out. The mystery of Judith's past and what really happened to her and her friend Lottie makes for a gripping read, as does Judith's plight in the present, with her family, with other townspeople and with Lucas, the boy she has always been in love with but to whom she believes herself invisible.

This is a dark and unsettling read, dealing with difficult themes and ideas that won't suit all readerships. However, it is also a vital and unique book that has the quality and characteristics to really become a canonical piece of literature.

Lily Boniface, age 15

This is a story about a girl named Judith who returns home after being missing for two years without a tongue, she is deeply in love with a boy named Lucas but struggles to express her feelings when she is unable to talk, has other priorities to her family and he may not even like her back.

This book was nothing like any romances I have read before. It was different, in a good way. I felt like Judith as a narrator was very honest and I enjoyed reading about her story and her love for Lucas. My favourite thing was when she was writing about her love for Lucas as the way she described it was wonderful and she wrote many beautiful lines expressing her love that felt like poetry. Judith's honest narrating and interesting story is what made me prefer

*this book to other typical teen romance books I have read. I like how Judith's relationship between characters showed who they were as people and how they treated others. **I enjoyed the mystery in the book and the unknown of what had happened to Judith and her back story, it kept you intrigued to read on and find out more about her.** The development of all the characters, specifically Judith, throughout the novel was great, I love how she grew as a person as she discovered her speech and who she was again after coming back.*

I liked how all the relationships in the novel developed I specifically loved Judith and her brother growing closer together as she looked after him and he taught her how to read.

My only complaint in the novel is that I think that there should have been some indication of Lucas' feelings for Judith, however I understand why this was done as it was written in Judith's perspective and she was unaware of how he felt for her. I really enjoyed the ending of the book as I felt like it concluded well.

I think that the book is best suited towards teen girls interested in an out of the ordinary love story with a great storyline.

Maisie Sansom, age 14

I loved this book - a tension-filled mix of history, mystery and love story.

'All the Truth That's in Me' is set in time of repression and fear when people were still afraid of curses. It follows the story of Judith, a young girl who has been mutilated and rejected, and shows how friendship and love can help overcome prejudice and fear.

I really liked the character of Judith because despite her ordeal she is observant and perceptive. I also really liked how her brother and her new friend Maria help her find an inner strength and encourage her not only to speak but to live again.

The love story between Judith and Lucas was heart-wrenching.

Lola Bridgeman, age 17

A breathless one read book, this is just beautiful. The story is a great one and the atmosphere is haunting.

A book that stays with you long after the last page , 'All The Truth That's In Me' is a stunning read. The characters linger, the story is intriguing and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Many thanks Lovereading4kids!

Karianne Turner, age 11

Thomas Cowley School

'All the Truth That's In Me' by Julia Berry was a fabulous book and one of my favourites. It tells the story of a girl called Judith who went missing for two years. When she came back, her tongue had been cut out and her best friend found dead in a river. The only person she can speak to is the love of her life, Lucas, whose father had abducted her in the first place! As their feelings start to grow, they become inseparable, but as the night falls and a stranger starts sneaking around her house, Judith needs to know who is on her side and who isn't.

*The book ended with some things not answered but that only made me want to read it all over again. **It was a fantastic and inspiring story. Good job Julie, I can't wait to read more of your outstanding books.***