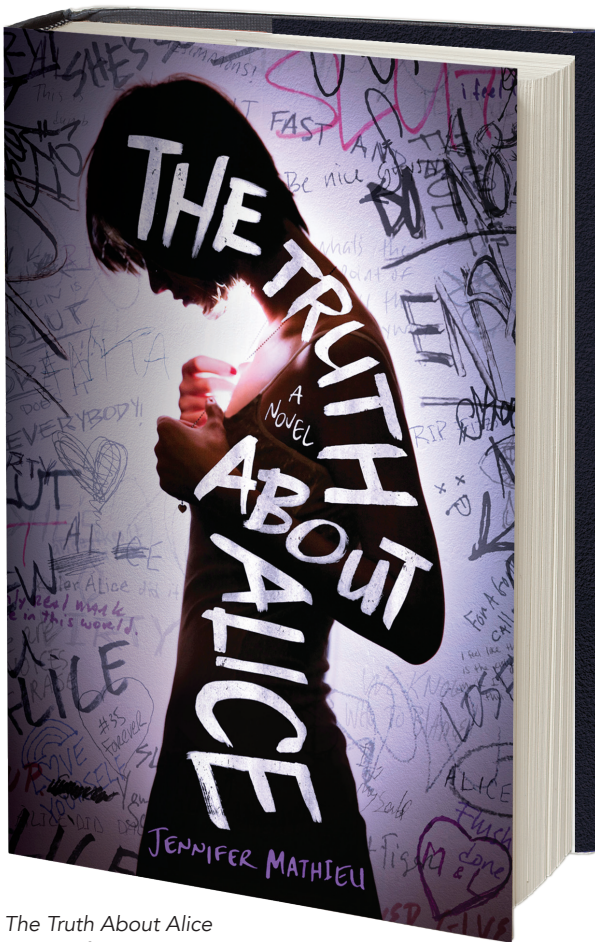


DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

for THE TRUTH ABOUT ALICE



The Truth About Alice
by Jennifer Mathieu • For Ages 12 Up
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ABOUT THE BOOK:

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." When Healy High star quarterback, Brandon Fitzsimmons, dies in a car crash, 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.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jennifer Mathieu started writing stories when she was in kindergarten and now teaches English to middle and high schoolers. She lives in Texas with her husband, her son, her dog, and two cats. Nothing bad has ever been written on the bathroom stall about Jennifer. At least she doesn't think so. *The Truth About Alice* is Jennifer's debut novel.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Elaine argues that even in a big city, Alice would still have had a bad reputation. Do you agree or disagree? How much impact did the small town setting have on Alice's situation?
2. Why didn't Brandon's reputation suffer like Alice's despite his alleged actions at Elaine's party? How much did gender affect the storyline and how the characters were treated?
3. There are several external conflicts in the story (Alice v. Healy, Alice v. Kelsie, etc.), but several characters struggle with internal conflicts throughout the novel. Identify these conflicts. Are they resolved, in your opinion? If so, how? What future do you see for these characters? Why?
4. In what ways is Alice's friendship with Kurt different from her friendship with Kelsie? In what ways are they similar?
5. If Brandon Fitzsimmons had survived the accident, how might the story have changed? What might have happened to Brandon and Josh's friendship? To Alice?
6. Have you ever been the subject of gossip? Have you ever helped spread a rumor you weren't sure was true? Why do people gossip? Is it possible to stop it, or is it just human nature?
7. What do you think is the strongest theme in the book? Truth, friendship, or loss? Why?



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