



## Shut Up

*Anne Tibbets*

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## **Shut Up** Anne Tibbets

Mary's older sister, Gwen, has royally screwed up her life. Not only is Gwen pregnant at seventeen, but she's also decided to marry The Creep who knocked her up.

Now Mary is powerless to stop her family from imploding. Her parents are freaking out, and to top it off The Creep has a gross fascination with Mary while Gwen enjoys teasing her to tears for sport.

Despite her brother's advice to shut up, Mary can't keep her trap closed and manages to piss off Mom so much it comes to blows.

Mary doesn't know what to do, and all her attempts to get help are rejected. When she finally plans her escape, she fails to consider how it could destroy them all.

## **Shut Up Details**

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Author : Anne Tibbets

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# From Reader Review Shut Up for online ebook

## Kris says

I was excited to get this book in the mail. I got this book for free through Goodreads. I was excited because the book sounded really interesting.

I was even more excited to open the book and see that Anne Tibbets signed the book. I love that she took the time to sign it for me. Thank you Anne for signing it and for writing this book.

Now on to the book.....

Mary's older sister, Gwen, has royally screwed up her life. Not only is Gwen pregnant at seventeen, but she's also decided to marry The Creep who knocked her up.

Now Mary is powerless to stop her family from imploding. Her parents are freaking out, and to top it off The Creep has a gross fascination with Mary while Gwen enjoys teasing her to tears for sport.

Despite her brother's advice to shut up, Mary can't keep her trap closed and manages to piss off Mom so much it comes to blows.

Mary doesn't know what to do, and all her attempts to get help are rejected. When she finally plans her escape, she fails to consider how it could destroy them all.

It is not a huge book at under 125 pages, but the length of a book isn't everything. A book doesn't have to have 300 or more pages to be a good book and this isn't just a good book...it is a great book. It's a short book that you won't forget about anytime soon.

I would put this book on a MUST READ list. I think that everyone 16+ should read this book.

This book really touched me. I don't know how to put into words the way that this book moved me other than to say that I really think that people should read this book.

If you've ever felt like you weren't good enough, you couldn't do anything right, have been belittled or bullied, "Shut Up" is a must read.

For more information about Anne, visit her website at [www.AnneTibbets.com](http://www.AnneTibbets.com), her blog at <http://writeforcoffee.blogspot.com/> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/AnneTibbetsA...>

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## John says

I just read this book yesterday. When I started reading the first couple of pages I was not sure this was a book for me. I was wrong. I love a book that can teach me something. In addition to being a well put together book I do feel like this book taught me something.

The story is about Mary a 12 year old girl and how she interprets her place in the family and the world. The story is told from Mary's point of view and from her brother's point of view mostly which allows you to see their different perspectives on similar situations.

You get to see how Mary interprets other actions toward her from her parents, siblings, teachers, and other significant people in her life. It showed me a different perspective on how we treat others can impact their lives, especially the young.

Please don't be thrown by the size. The book is only slightly over 100 pages, but it tells a story. The book would get me so angry for Mary at times and I love how the people in the book do seem to truly learn from their actions (eventually). I think this is a great book for any parent to read and highly recommend it.

I won this book in a Giveaway and am so glad I did, because I am not sure I would have picked it up otherwise. I originally gave the book 4 stars, but moved it to 5, because I think it was more like a 4.5 star book. If I can learn a life lesson from a book I think it is worthy of at least 4 stars!

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### **JenniferJ says**

Shut Up made me sad and angry all at once. Mary is but still a child who still plays with Barbie Dolls for Pete's sakes and her older sister is no more than a bully! I can't understand why the parents bowed down and let Gwen run amok and carry on in their home like she did. It was appalling and sickening.

I know to a certain degree they just wanted to pacify Gwen because the more you'd argue with her the longer and louder she'd get. But the way I look at it is Gwen made her own bed and even once they tried to overlook that she had gotten pregnant and wanted to marry the creep father of the child, and extend an olive branch of help she was the most ungratefulest person in the world! You can only help somebody so much. They have got to do something for themselves and let me tell you what...my folks would never have tolerated this behavior from me or my sibs. Pregnant or not had I hollered at them either I'd be picking my teeth up off the ground or sitting in the front yard with my suitcases!

Gwen was just a very negative person and she wanted everybody around her to be just as miserable as she was. I wanted to reach out to Mary and hug her and let her know I was there and that she wasn't alone even though I knew she was just a character in a book she felt so freaking real to me!

The title of the book is Shut Up only it seems weird because Mary never really "said" anything! Bless her heart she just kept taking the abuse, and yes that is what it was, time and time again. The words of truth and pain were right there on the tip of her tongue so many times but she could never confide in anybody and after a while she began to blame herself and wonder why she could never do anything right.

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### **Emma says**

#### **REVIEW BY BETH**

It is impossible to read Shut Up and not feel sorry for Mary. Her whole family have been shaken by her sister Gwen's spoilt behaviour which has led to her pregnancy and impending marriage to The Creep. Gwen's

character is thoroughly unlikeable despite her awful predicament and even in her weaker moments it's hard to feel any empathy towards her.

Whatever Mary says or does, she's in the wrong, her parents seem unable to stand up to Gwen and instead take out all their anger and upset on Mary. At times it's possible to see that Mary is being a right pain and making situations even more difficult for her parents but when you consider she's meant to be twelve years old, this should be acceptable behaviour really.

Shut Up is extremely hard hitting and leaves nothing to the imagination when it comes to what Mary has to go through, how she's treated by her sister, her parents and even The Creep. Throughout the novel you see Mary grow from a young naïve child into a preteen who is more worldly wise than you could ever have imagined and Tibbets packs her narrative out with emotive language to portray this dysfunctional family.

An extremely short read and certainly not what you'd call sweet, Shut Up is an honest, believable tale that can be read in a couple of short sittings. It is packed full of serious issues dealt with competently from teenage pregnancy to physical abuse and Tibbets successfully deals with some of many of the teenage and family issues which are rife in society.

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### **Krista (CubicleBlindness Reviews) says**

I don't read much contemporary fiction. I like to spend my money on books that take me to fantasy lands and a whole new world to explore. When I do pick up contemporary it really has to speak to me for me to like it. This was obviously one of those books.

When the author contacted me to read the book I was looking for a change of pace, it was a short read and I wasn't exactly sure where the story was going to go and it sounds intense.

What I did find from this story was a very emotional and depressing situation. One that while not all people have dealt with in their lives, I think that the majority of people can understand the depth of the depression that Mary fell into during this time in her life.

The writing is what really got me. It was so well portrayed that you could see the spiraling of Mary's emotional state at each stage, as the events happen that you really did wonder how it was going to all play out.

I don't want to give any spoilers away, but I just wanted to say there were some people in this story that made me proud. Good for them.

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### **Peggy Martinez says**

Well...let me start off by saying how much I love the cover and title of this book!

When I received SHUT UP in the mail I was a little distraught at how small it was. It only has 108 pages, and normally I don't even bother with books this short. I can read a 400 page novel in about 3 & 1/2 hours, so I tend to buy longer novels or I feel like I'm wasting my time and money. I mean how much can an Author really tell me in 108 pages?? The answer in all honesty is usually NOT MUCH!

BUT Anne Tibbets packs so much raw emotion and reality into 108 short pages that I honestly felt like I came away with just as much information as if it had been 200 pages longer.

I am a little sad that I could relate so easily to the characters and their struggles... I could feel the pain that 12 year old Mary went through on a daily basis, how she felt invisible some times, but mostly wished she could be invisible just to avoid making mistakes or calling attention to her own awkwardness. My heart raced every time she was running away or every time she clutched a bottle of pills in her hand, just ready for it all to end. I wonder how many children/teens feel this way on a daily basis and how many are dealing with some sort of depression or feelings of worthlessness. The reality of this book saddens and terrifies me, since I have five children of my own.

On some level I could relate to the Mary's mom in the book...her actions, while inexcusable, seemed to stem from so much stress and helplessness, that by the end of the book I felt a \*little\* sorry for her....but not too much. Besides wanting to slap some sense into her or maybe take a hanger to her (let her have a taste of her own medicine) I just wanted to shake her until she stopped treating Mary like some unwanted step child. I can relate to her stress and feeling helpless, but not so much to her lashing out at her other children. Unfortunately, I'm sure many children/teens \*CAN\* relate to this scenario on some level. If not the physical, then definitely the mental abuse.

Words harshly spoken can have such devastating affects on the life of a child/teen. This book serves, in my opinion, serves as a reminder that no one can know how much a person has endured, how much a person has been pushed, and how much more a person can take. I pray to God that my children never feel the way Mary and Paul felt in this book... I hope that they always know how beautiful, smart, and wanted they are. ALL children should be able to feel that way, ALL children should be made to feel heard!

~Peggy

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## Emily says

Review originally posted at Doodle's Book Blog

When I received Shut Up I first thought, "What can I be told in just over a hundred pages?" Anne Tibbets told me a lot. She wrote a book of raw emotion and childhood depression that will forever be at the back of my mind.

There are so many elements that wreak havoc on Mary's life. She is only twelve and she has people telling her that she isn't pretty, smart, or just about anything that would ruin her self image. Mary is at an impressionable age and she can't see what everyone else does because of her sister's harsh words. Her mom doesn't pay much attention to her except to yell at her. I would be depressed if I were her too.

There are so many aspects to this book that I liked, the first being multiple perspectives. While Mary is the main speaker, we hear from her brother Paul also. He is pretty much invisible throughout the book while Mary takes all the emotional abuse her sister can toss her way, but he gives an outside look on the big

problem. I also liked that you can see the impact Gwen has on the family. She is a huge catalyst to all of their problems. But, my favorite part is the end and based on what has been read, it is completely unexpected. I cried.

Overall, this was a gripping book that I didn't want to put down. I had to read it straight through to see how it all ended.

FTC Disclosure: I received a copy of this book in exchange for a fair and honest review. I was not monetarily compensated for my opinion.

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### **Faye says**

After I finished reading 'Shut Up' by Anne Tibbets I had to sit on it for a while. I kind of let it swirl around in my head and the story just completely consumed me. The only thing I could even think to say at the end of it was 'Wow!' It is such an incredible story of pain and heartache but there is also this fierce courage and strength to it that it's empowering. It is easily one of the most emotional books I have read to date.

'Shut Up' tells the story of Mary who is beaten by her family both physically and emotionally. She has an older sister who is the antagonist in my mind. She does everything she can to ruin Mary and her happiness. Everyone in Mary's family seems to let their anger out on her in so many different ways. And through all of this she has to endure disgusting sexual advances by 'The Creep' which is her older sister's boyfriend.

It was amazing to read such a powerful story and literally watch this young girl go from naive child to maturity in one small novel. I was completely and totally trapped in this world with her and sometimes I just wanted to cry with Mary and sometimes I wished I could help her. 'Shut Up' really touches your soul on an intense emotional level which is why it is EASILY one of my favorite books. I think that 'Shut Up' portrays a strong message and theme that it could be both influential and beneficial to any teenager, child or adult. If you haven't had to chance to read 'Shut Up' by Anne Tibbets, make sure you get it! It's one emotional drama filled book that you'll wish you found sooner!

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### **Kelly says**

I finished this book two days ago and have been a little perplexed on how to write the review. "Shut Up" doesn't have the sort of quirky or witty dialogue I usually enjoy, the world is ours and it's really not at all about the world, there weren't characters I adored or would gush over, and the happy ending is well... more hope for happy than happy.

Despite everything it didn't have that I usually find appealing in books, what "Shut Up" did have was honesty and power. Mary, the main character, is one whom I found I could relate and empathize with on a deep level. Her pain, her helplessness and confusion touched me, drew me in, nearly compelled me to keep reading, praying that somehow, there would be light at the end of the tunnel. Hoping with her, crashing with her, her pain nearly bringing me to tears--I was unable to put this book down.

Tibbet's characters are real people, and perhaps that's what is so compelling about this book. We all know people like Mary's mother, father, brother, and sisters. It makes them all very accessible, and also is probably part of what makes you feel so much like you could be reading your own story.

If you've ever felt like you weren't good enough, you couldn't do anything right, have been belittled or bullied (whether by family or "friends"), "Shut Up" is a must read. The story Mary and Paul tell is painful, real, but there is also hope. It finishes with the reminder that childhood is not forever, that people grow up and move on--even our tormentors--and that we are not alone. Sooner or later, you'll find someone who will stand up for you, who will notice you, and who will assure you that you are valuable. And that hope isn't shoved in the reader's face like a life lesson or a great theme--it is integrated in the same way the story is told--realistically.

Five stars for a compelling, honest look inside the mind and heart of a child who is bullied, and five stars for the beautiful conclusion of hope.

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### **Monique Diplock says**

Anne has created a great tale that told through a child's eyes. a frustrated child who has a horrible time learning to keep her mouth shut.

I love how Anne set the story up made us feel for Mary and hate Gwen and feel anger towards the parents. The novel shows that sometimes we see things in a clouded way. Some times when we're younger we are going through all this stuff and we sometimes think that our parents don't know that we are struggling. I think that this book shows that they really do notice but don't know what to do, after all they are only human.

The novel was a really quick simple read and while I would not say that Anne is up there with my Laurie Halse Anderson but she has a similar writing style where she gets her words across in her own style, not the industries style, I do recommend this book if you like Laurie's novels.

long story short, I loved this novel and I think you will too.

all reviews originally posted at [www.thebookmystress.blogspot.com](http://www.thebookmystress.blogspot.com)

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### **Wanda says**

I have literally just finished the book and I have to admit I write in quite a somber mood. I absolutely love contemporary YA, so when the author was kind enough to reach out to me I jumped on the opportunity to read and review this book. And what a book!

The novel is told mostly in the point of view of Mary and some chapters are told in Paul, Mary's older brother's, point of view. In either point of view you see what hardships Mary has to go through in day to day life. Her home life is horrible. Her school life makes her miserable. You watch as Mary is constantly beaten down day after day with hurtful words by people that should be looking after her.

At home it's a constant war-zone with Mary's older sister Gwen, who despite being a bright popular



seventeen year old, manages to get pregnant by her boyfriend who Mary calls The Creep. Mary endures being called fat, ugly, and many other names by Gwen and all her family does is sit and watch. But in my opinion Gwen isn't the worst Mary has to handle at home. Her mother constantly hits Mary, thinking that this way she'll learn from her "mistakes". The problem is that all of Mary's mistakes are not mistakes.

And The Creep.... He accosts Mary, making inappropriate advances toward her even though she's only twelve and when trying to defend herself all Mary gets is another verbal onslaught from Gwen.

My emotions while reading this book were complete mayhem, but the one that always stuck was anger. I was angry at Paul, for knowing that Mary was dying from all the abuse she suffered but not doing anything about it. I was angry at Mary's mom for thinking that violence could fix anything, although that was how she was raised. And I loathed Gwen for having the nerve to say the things she did to Mary when she had no right. Even though it is a fictional novel, I can't stand the fact that out there in the world there are people that go through this every day. Mary endured countless months of pain and people just sat there and watched it all, too afraid to say anything.

I applaud Anne Tibbets on such a powerful novel. In a hundred and teen pages Mrs. Tibbets said so much. I am still shocked at how much the novel got to me. This novel has such an amazing storyline, characters, and especially ending.

A must read for anyone!

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## **Paige Bradish says**

The first thing I would like to say is don't be intimidated by the size of this book! It is really small but like they say good things come in small packages and that saying really does apply to this book. Shut Up is about a young girl named Mary who is having a hard time at home. Her sister is always picking on her no matter what she does it's always wrong in the eyes of her sister and that was really hard on her. Also her Mother was always in such a bad mood because of her sister so she got her moms bad mood taken out on her too.

The main point of view in the story was Mary. She doesn't seem so strong at first but she really is. Not many little girls would have dealt with that they would have done what Mary was planning on from the beginning or they would of just run away and not have come home unless they were dragged kicking and screaming. She has her ups and downs as any other little girl but I was glad in the end because a certain someone moved out and her life got better.

The second point of view we have is Mary's brother Paul. He keeps himself out of all the yelling and anger by simply keeping quiet, which he tries to give Mary this tip but it doesn't help her at all. We follow him dealing with his struggles of trying to be a better brother and be there for Mary.

Overall this story is a really great thing to read about because you don't know how bad it is for other people out there like Mary even though her character Is completely fictional. Even though her character is Fictional I'm still glad to have read her story.

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## Anjana says

I'm kind of a fussy reader. I can usually relate only to certain writing styles (preferably from a first person's point of view) and a lot of times, I've found myself not being able to engross myself in a novel because the writing doesn't appeal to me. To make things worse, I've been going through a reading slump and the past two weeks, I haven't been reading as much as I usually do. However, once I started reading *Shut Up*, I was relieved.

For a book that seemed so short at first, *Shut Up* really managed to get the point across. It's one of the rare books that can pull you in and make you feel a whole range of emotions in just a few pages. It was exactly what I needed to wake me up from my slump.

Mary's our protagonist: a girl who gets picked on at school and bullied at home. She has an evil witch for a sister and utterly careless parents. Paul, Mary's brother, constantly tells her to shut up through all the crap that gets handed to her but she can't take it anymore and obviously, stuff hits the fan in their household. Repeatedly. Her life is basically hell and not surprisingly, she tries to run away from home..and that pretty much leads to chaos.

It's amazing how Anne managed to create such a strong and story character in just around 100 pages. I'm not sure if I should applaud this book for its intensity or judge it for drama but it's honestly remarkable. Mary and Paul had my complete and total sympathy, I was silently fuming on their behalf throughout the novel.

*Shut Up* may be small but regardless of its size, it's a highly deep and compelling story that will definitely take you on an emotional roller-coaster.

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## Tricia Kristufek says

*This isn't about her! It's about me! I'm doing this because I want to! I'm doing this. Me!*

Twelve year old Mary can't do anything right, even when she's not doing anything at all. Mary's sister, Gwen, finds any excuse at all to yell at Mary, belittling her and making her feel worthless. What's worse, Gwen's gotten pregnant and decided to marry The Creep, causing her family a massive amount of stress - which leads to more yelling at Mary. After enduring for as long as she could, Mary finally plans to escape - which may be the true undoing of the entire family.

Written in mostly Mary's perspective, *Shut Up* gives its readers a first-hand look at bullying and abuse. Mary gets teased at school, picked on at home by her sister, practically felt up by The Creep, screamed at and beat by her mother, and yet endures all of these things while her father and brother seemingly sit by and watch. The true strength of Mary's character is remarkable.

A captivating page-turner, *Shut Up* brings to light all those little family intricacies that can plague even the most well-intentioned or perfect-seeming households. Readers ride the waves of emotions along with Mary - cheering for her when she does stand up for herself, saddened by her failed attempts to fit in or be nice to Gwen, angry with her at her entire family for the abuse she takes for unknown reasons, enjoying those quiet moments without Gwen - empathizing with Mary's choice of escape, even if it's not the best course of action. But Mary endures and overcomes, showing that even in the darkest storms, there is light ahead.

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## Jamie says

I've been trying to write this post for two days and I'm still finding it hard to explain how much this book touched me. When I started reading this book, I felt bad for Mary, a 12 year old girl who is constantly picked on at home and school for literally everything, even breathing wrong. Mary has said "I'm sorry" so many times, that she said it didn't even mean much anymore. Through the course of the book, it became more than just "feeling bad for Mary". It turned into heartbreak and I found myself hurting for this little girl who was in so much pain that she was contemplating suicide before even becoming a teenager because not a single person in her life gave her a reason to think she mattered. Mary's parent's were stressed out because her dad had lost his job and they were trying to support their four kids, the oldest of which was Gwen, a pregnant teenager engaged to The Creep, a guy who emotionally abused her and made sexual advances towards Mary.

There comes a point in the middle of this book where Gwen, the person who seems to be the root of all the negativity in the family by spending all of her time yelling at everyone, moves away with her new husband, The Creep. Things start looking up for Mary; she excels in school and extra-curricular activities, her family becomes closer and she slowly starts to become happy, possibly for the first time in her life. But then Gwen comes to live back at home and the cloud of negativity lands back in the household, bringing everyone down and again Mary has found herself as the scapegoat to everyone's problems. Mary finds herself falling farther and farther into depression where she can't take it anymore and decides to run away. If that doesn't work out for her, there's always the bottle of Aspirin she has hidden in her drawer.

I'm not going to tell you how this book ends. What I am going to tell you is that I cried many times while reading this book and didn't stop for about 20 minutes after I was done. There's something to be said about an Author who writes a book that touches the readers this much. Anne Tibbets has explained that although this is a work of fiction, parts of it were written from personal experience. She has done a brilliant job of bringing this story to life and as much as I'm sure it hurt her to write it, I applaud her for having the courage and strength to do so. Thank you Anne for making us all aware of childhood depression and that although we may not know or realize it, our actions effect others. I urge all of you out there who have children in your family, please make sure to let them know constantly how amazing they are and how much they matter.

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