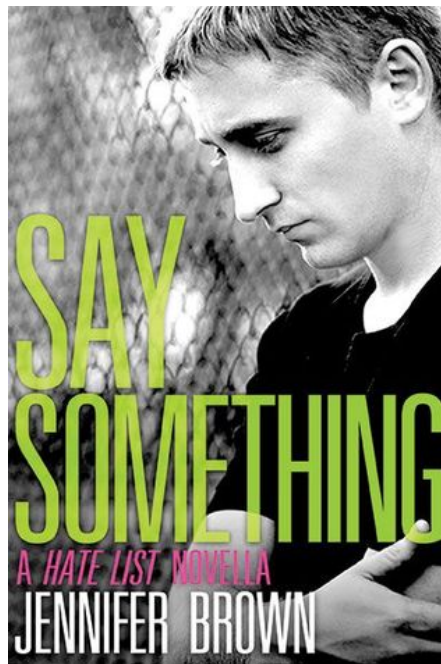




Say Something: A Hate List Novella

Jennifer Brown

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In *Hate List*, Jennifer Brown delivered a powerful story about grief, friendship, and forgiveness in the aftermath of a school shooting. Now, she explores an evocative new narrative while digging deeper into the themes first touched upon in her debut novel.

David Judy knows what it's like to be bullied. Shy and gentle, with a soft voice and "a girl's name for a last name," he is a prime target. Thankfully, there's one girl David feels at ease with -- Valerie, the girl who's been dating his neighbor and sometimes-friend, Nick. Valerie is kind to David and pulls him into their circle of outcast friends, where he finally feels like he (sort of) belongs. So when David starts to suspect that Nick and his friend Jeremy are planning a revenge plot against their tormentors, he wrestles with whether or not to tell someone. By the time he finally works up the courage to say something...it's too late.

David tries to put what he knows behind him -- to forget and move on -- but that's hard to do as senior year starts and he watches his old friend, Valerie, struggle in a deep, dark place of guilt and confusion. It's time to speak up. David may not be able to end bullying, but by standing up, he might just make a difference. And that's what matters.

Say Something: A Hate List Novella Details

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julieta says

Say something.

Say something, say something, say something.

Why? Why didn't you speak up?

Say Something is a short story to the amazing book *Hate List*. This story is focused on David, a friend of both Nick and Valerie.

In this story, we see deeper into the bullying side of the book; a little like seeing Nick's life before, you know, everything.

Jacquelyn says

This was such a wonderful and thought provoking novellas. Hate List is one of my favorites so I am glad I also enjoyed this one. I would highly recommend reading Hate List! You read the novella after you read that one.

Erika says

Great preview to Hate List.

Vicki says

Loved this little novella giving David's recollection of his junior year and the shooting that occurred. His guilt is overtaking him, but he still has difficulty with telling what he knows...thus "say something."

I enjoyed the chapters that alternated between his junior and senior years at school and it helped to remind the reader of what happened when Nick shot all the kids.

Recommendation:> If you've read *The Hate List*, be sure to read this afterward. This should not, however, be read first.

Priscilla says

Que dire de ce livre ? Lorsque j'ai lu Hate List, les tueries dans des lycées n'étaient pas aussi... régulières ? Mais bien sur, il y en avait, seulement moins. Mais maintenant.. C'est encore plus glaçant de lire ce genre d'histoires. Parce que c'est la triste réalité. Il y a trois jours, il y a encore eu une fusillade dans un lycée, en

Floride. Ma lecture a donc été encore plus compliquée, horrible. Je n'ai fait que pleurer.

Ici, nous rencontrons David, qui était un ami de Nick, le tueur. C'est une nouvelle, pas une suite de Hate List, seulement l'histoire venant d'un autre point de vue. Je vous conseille donc d'avoir lu Hate List avant de commencer celui-ci.

Nous rencontrons donc David, qui n'ouvre pas sa bouche, qui reste silencieux malgré les choses qu'il sait, qu'il ressent, malgré les choses qui devraient sortir de sa bouche. David se fait clairement harcelé au lycée, ça va même jusqu'aux gestes. Il est donc normal qu'il deteste ces personnes, qu'il éprouve de la haine. Sauf que... cela va un peu trop loin. Il ne fait qu'écrire le nom de son harceleur et.. il le regrette plus tard. Il souhaite l'effacer. Il se deteste, ensuite. C'est un personnage très fort, qui m'a encore plus touché que le personnage de Val' dans Hate List. Il est bouleversant, et il m'a beaucoup fait pleurer. Il s'en veut pour des choses, mais il n'y peut rien, au fond. Il ne peut rien changer. Il ne pouvait rien changer. C'était horrible de le voir se torturer l'esprit, de voir que les autres allaient de l'avant et que lui non.

Ce roman est une énorme claque. Il m'a bien plus touché que Hate List, sûrement parce que... ce n'était pas devenu une réalité, en 2011/2012. Ou en tous cas, moins qu'actuellement. J'ai du mal à parler de ce livre. Je me retrouve incapable d'écrire une chronique. J'ai une boule dans la gorge, à nouveau. C'est un livre à lire, ne serait-ce que pour se rendre compte de la terrible réalité.

Anna says

i absolutely adored hate list. it was such an amazing book and when i saw this one, i was understandably excited. unfortunately it was nowhere near as good as hate list. it was still good, and maybe if it hadn't been so long since i read hate list, i would have enjoyed it more.

Maggie61 says

Hate List was probably my favourite novel of Jennifer Brown. While the subject matter was difficult to read, it was so real and so expertly written.

This is David's story; one of the school shooter's closest friends. One that thinks he could have stopped it, one who knew a little too late what would happen. All the signs were there, David didn't put it all together until that morning. He had several choices but maybe made the wrong one. Was it out of denial or fear but it was too little too late and now he lives with the knowledge that it's his fault and he should have said something. Now he's just afraid to, scared that he'll become ostracized and hated.

Say something is a little of the aftermath; how students adjusted and what followed. It really saddened me that after all that had transpired, it seemed not a lot had changed. The popular people were still the same; the outcasts were still cast out and the bullying just continued as if there was nothing learned by the horrible events of that day. This novella was emotional and my heart broke for the boy who had known too much and now lives with the guilt of it.

Great Novella, Jennifer Brown continues to be one of my favourite young Adult authors.

Paula says

Jennifer Brown doesn't disappoint in the Hate List Novella "Say Something." I loved "Hate List" and finding out there is a novella, I was thrilled but also worried that it wouldn't do the book justice, as is often the case with novellas. But that definitely wasn't a problem here.

The novella is from the POV of David, a friend of the school shooter Nick and his girlfriend Valerie. A boy who is sensitive, sweet and emotional. All those traits might seem like a good thing when you're an adult, but when you're in high school, it's the recipe to become the target of jocks and the so-called cool kids.

David deals with bullying that goes way beyond just calling him names. Though it makes his high school life hell, he weathers it. Until things suddenly change and his best friend shoots up the school, killing and injuring people.

David is left behind not with survivor's guilt, but the guilt of having had the knowledge what's going to happen and not being able to stop it. Of having seen the signs and not spoken out. Of letting down the one person he cares about.

This book was moving and touching. David's remorse, his pain and his guilt at times brought me to tears. It was hard to blame him and it was difficult not to blame him for not stopping Nick.

I enjoyed getting more information about the times when Nick wasn't with Valerie, times we didn't get to see in the first book.

"Say Something" is a great novella that is definitely worth reading.

4 I-wish-he-would've-said-something stars.

Alice says

Sono felice che la mia edizione di *Hate List* contenga anche la novella oggetto della recensione di oggi, perché anche quella è un piccolo calcio nello stomaco - anche lei merita e chiude il cerchio della storia di Valerie e del massacro alla Garvin High.

E come sempre forse ho scritto troppo, specialmente considerando che questa è una novella e non un romanzo vero e proprio.

E spero di non aver spoilerato niente, ma sia *Hate List* che *Say Something* dovrebbero essere considerati come una lettura obbligatoria.

Nella mia recensione di *Hate List* non avevo citato Jeremy e David - non perché non fossero in qualche modo importanti, ma perché c'erano tante altre cose che volevo dire.

Jeremy è un ragazzo più grande, uno che le superiori le ha finite da qualche anno, uno che beve, uno che fuma erba, uno che picchia la sua ragazza - un amico di Nick.

Jeremy è quello con cui Nick passava più tempo nelle settimane prima della sparatoria, quello che rendeva lo sguardo di Nick totalmente diverso - più freddo, quasi irriconoscibile, tanto che Valerie pensava che Nick volesse lasciarla.

Quello che Valerie sospetta fosse parte attiva nella pianificazione di quanto successo quella mattina per mano di Nick.

David, il protagonista di questa novella, è l'unico che all'inizio di *Hate List* sembra felice del ritorno di Valerie alla Garvin High.

David è quello che la abbraccia, quello che prova ad alzarsi per farle posto al loro solito tavolo in mensa, quello che poi abbassa lo sguardo e asseconda la decisione di Stacey e Duce di tagliare qualsiasi legame con Valerie per non essere in nessun modo associati a lei - come se non si fossero mai conosciuti, come se non fossero mai stati amici, come se non avessero mai condiviso nulla.

In *Hate List*, attraverso alcuni episodi di bullismo che Valerie ricorda, vediamo Nick passare dalla tristezza e dallo sgomento con le lacrime agli occhi a uno sguardo vuoto e a una rabbia silenziosa - forse la più pericolosa.

E lo vediamo anche qui, in un modo ancora più inquietante che mette i brividi.

David ha fatto il suo ingresso alla Garvin High all'inizio del terzo anno, vittima di bullismo fin da subito per il suo essere molto esile e timido. Preso di mira da Chris Summers - lo stesso che tormentava Nick - e dal suo amico Jacob Kinney, David si prende una piccola cotta per Valerie, l'unica gentile con lui fin da subito e che lo invita ad unirsi al suo gruppo di amici.

In un'alternanza di capitoli tra junior year e senior year, vediamo quello che David affronta giorno dopo giorno.

Vediamo tutte le angherie di Chris, vediamo il proposito di David di farsi forte di fronte a lui e Jacob andare in frantumi, vediamo come Nick si fosse preso delle punizioni per difenderlo, vediamo il suo rapporto con Valerie e gli altri, vediamo come un giorno ha scoperto la Hate List a casa di Nick - come la trovasse una cosa divertente tutto sommato, proprio perché era nata come un modo per sfogare la frustrazione e non come qualcosa nato con il proposito di uccidere.

I capitoli nel passato iniziano proprio con alcune voci della lista - che non vedeva soltanto i nomi di coloro che li tormentavano ma anche cose come i compiti, il colore rosa, la brutta abitudine di alcune persone di parlare per abbreviazioni.

E poi David comincia ad accorgersi che qualcosa non va, che Nick si comporta in maniera strana, assiste a discorsi ed eventi che lo turbano e lo mettono a disagio, vorrebbe avere il coraggio di parlare ma come non aveva il coraggio di affrontare Chris Summers, così non ha il coraggio di dire nulla su quello che teme Nick e Jeremy stiano facendo. Magari si sbaglia, quindi tace. Ma poi è troppo tardi.

Nel corso del senior year, David si accorge di come nulla sia fundamentalmente cambiato - come lui sia ancora preso di mira, come Jacob non abbia imparato niente dalla morte del suo migliore amico, come Nick sia considerato l'unico pazzo e tutti gli altri normali, come Valerie non sembri più la stessa che conosceva, come lui stesso ancora non abbia il coraggio di prendere una posizione, come lui abbia ancora paura di Chris nonostante sia morto e mantenga le vecchie abitudini di non mangiare in mensa.

E ci sono i sensi di colpa che lo stanno divorando, i sensi di colpa per non aver detto niente e per continuare a non farlo, i sensi di colpa per un gesto che quel 2 maggio 2008 l'ha spiazzato e ha cambiato la prospettiva delle cose.

E rivediamo Valerie, sia in momenti lasciati fuori da *Hate List* durante l'anno scolastico e sia in momenti dopo la conclusione della storia.

Attraverso David vediamo quel cambiamento che Valerie non aveva visto in sé, quel suo essere diventata più silenziosa, riservata e arrabbiata che l'aveva fatta diventare così simile a Nick - che l'ha fatta sospettare e mai

scagionare del tutto dall'essere egualmente responsabile, di aver saputo e di non aver detto niente.

Ma era qualcun altro che sapeva e non ha parlato.

E presto o tardi arriverà al punto di rottura, al punto in cui non riuscirà più a trattenere tutto quello che ha visto e sentito per sé.

Say Something non è solo il titolo della novella, è quello che David si ripete in continuazione - è quello che non riesce a fare, perché c'è troppo da dire e forse è troppo tardi e perché ha paura delle conseguenze. Jennifer Brown ci incita a parlare, ci incita ad essere coraggiosi, ci incita a fare la cosa giusta e ad assumerci le nostre responsabilità. A sottoporci ad un esame di coscienza, a chiederci che genere di persone siamo o vogliamo essere.

Jennifer Brown porta ancora in scena l'ambivalenza umana, ancora ci mostra il cambiamento di Nick da ragazzo gentile a freddo e arrabbiato e il percorso di Valerie, che per David diventa un'estranea che non ha il coraggio di avvicinare.

E dopo averci fatto odiare Chris Summers attraverso i ricordi di Valerie e David, l'autrice ci mostra anche un altro aspetto di lui - uno inaspettato, uno che io stessa avevo guardato con disprezzo quando veniva decantato come un eroe.

E ancora una volta ci dimostra che siamo tutti vittime e carnefici, eroi e cattivi - tutti e due allo stesso tempo perché nessuno di noi è un *errore*.

Waverly Nyx says

That moment when you like a novella more than the actual book oh

Rose says

Initial reaction: "Say Something" is a great follow-up narrative to Brown's "Hate List". Brief read, but very emotional subject matter.

Full review:

Though this was a very brief read, I still wanted to pick my heart up off the floor after reading "Say Something." David is the main character for this narrative - former friend to Valerie, also suffering from survivor's guilt in the aftermath of the school shooting of their junior year. The narrative flips back and forth between junior and senior year, narrating David's experiences with physical and verbal bullying, being helped in an unexpected place by the absolute last person he thought possible, and struggling between his guilt in silence and being able to "say something." (Interestingly enough, I had A Great Big World's "Say Something" running through my head as I read this novella.)

I thought this was written with the same maturity and heart as "Hate List", with decent pacing between the past and present. David's range of emotions in the before, during and aftermath of the shooting are palpable. I appreciated the narrative for what it offered, though I'll admit it was over about as soon as it began. It's definitely a narrative I'd recommend reading after "Hate List" to get the full impact and weight of the story.

Overall score: 4/5 stars.

Lametria says

The whole time I was reading Great Big Worlds song "Say Something" was playing in my head. This book is amazing and I loved it! Although it was just a novella, it was just as powerful as Hate List. David Judy is someone we can all relate to, and even though he didn't say something until it was too late, he was still dealing with stuff inside and he was sort of like Nick. One day he just snapped and couldn't take it anymore, the only difference is Nick did something, when he should have said something like David.

The Book Girl (Andrea) says

Review to come:

This is a novella to the hate list. I really enjoyed it. Brief read, but very emotional subject

PinkAmy loves books, cats and naps says

What if there was a school shooting? What if people died? What if the school shooter was your friend, Nick? What if people blamed his girlfriend, Valerie, for knowing and not stopping the shooting? And you had a crush on her? And what if you were the one who knew what he was planning, but were afraid to tell? And what if you're still afraid to tell, even though you know Valerie knew nothing about the shooting? David Judy, the boy with the last name of a girl, struggles with what he thinks he knows, what thought he knew, and who and how to tell.

In SAY SOMETHING, we're privy to David's first person account begins the September before the shooting, and switches between then and the September after the shooting time frames in this sequel to Jennifer Brown's THE HATE LIST which was narrated by Valerie. David's point of view, as a victim of bullying shows Nick, the shooter not as a monstrous murderer, but as a troubled young man who had been mercilessly, systematically bullied. His peers who could have intervened didn't know how, and feared for their own victimization. Adults how could have intervened didn't. Bullies who knew better. None of the characters are stereotypes or one dimensional and by the end we see characters at their worst, best and in between. While violence and school shooting can never be condoned, I found myself empathizing with most of the characters.

Read THE HATE LIST, then immediately read SAY SOMETHING.

Les lectures de Dobby says

J'ai ENORMEMENT apprécié découvrir Nick et Valerie à travers d'autres yeux que cette dernière! C'est ce qui me manquait dans Hate list : un point de vue extérieur. Et aussi découvrir les actions dont David a pu être victime

