



The Truth

By Jeffery W. Johnston

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*"I tied you up because I need you to listen," Derek says. "Focus."
"Please... W-what do you want from me?"
"The truth," he says. "About what happened the night my brother died." He reaches for my left hand. "If I think you're lying..." With his other hand, he flourishes a pair of flower cutters. Curved. Sharp.
And he smiles.*

When Chris wakes up in a dark basement tied to a chair, he knows that he's trapped-and why. Eight nights ago a burglar broke into Chris' home. Eight nights ago Chris did what he had to do to protect his family. And eight nights ago a 13-year-old runaway bled to death on his kitchen floor.

Now Derek wants the truth about what happened that night. He wants proof his little brother didn't deserve to die. For every lie Chris tells, he will lose a finger. But telling the truth is far more dangerous...

A riveting, edge-of-your-seat thriller from Edgar Award-nominated author Jeffery W. Johnston that explores the gray area between what is right and what we'll do to protect the people we love.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Chris Russo wakes up in a dark basement tied to a chair. He is being held captive by Derek Brannick, who demands the truth about the shooting death of his younger brother Caleb at Chris's hands. He threatens to cut all of Chris's fingers off with garden shears if not told the truth. Eight nights ago, Caleb broke into Chris's home. Chris felt he had no choice but to shoot him in self-defense to protect his mom and younger brother, Devon. He appointed himself the man of the house after his police officer dad was killed in the line of duty. He focused his life on Devon's Little League games and overall well-being. He became an overnight local hero for shooting Caleb, whom he learned was a 13-year-old runaway. The teen was instantly invited into the popular cliques and received by his crush Rita before his kidnapping. Chris eventually tells the truth, and the reveal will be unexpected for readers. This YA thriller by Edgar Award nominee Johnston often feels predictable and redundant. Some readers may have issues with the background roles that the parents have. Detective Fyfe may be accused of perpetrating dirty and crooked police stereotypes. VERDICT Recommended for readers who enjoy edgy thrillers.—Donald Peebles, New York Black Librarians Caucus

Review

"A tough, fast, twisty little brawler of a book." - *Booklist*

"This captivating thriller keeps the pacing fast, the tension high, and the emotions raw" - *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

"Recommended for readers who enjoy edgy thrillers" - *School Library Journal*

"An excellent novel that will keep the reader going and guessing up until the very end."

" - *VOYA Magazine*

About the Author

Jeffry W. Johnston has published about thirty-five short stories and more than two hundred articles. His first young adult novel, *Fragments*, was an Edgar Award nominee for Best Young Adult Mystery and a Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers selection by YALSA. He lives in the Philadelphia area with his wife and their teenage son. Visit him at jeffrywjohnston.com.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gracie Davis:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important action, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled *The Truth*. Try to make book *The Truth* as your pal. It means that it can to get your friend when you experience alone and beside regarding course make you smarter than previously. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you personally. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , we need to make new experience as well as knowledge with this book.

Cynthia Sharma:

Information is provisions for folks to get better life, information presently can get by anyone in everywhere. The information can be a expertise or any news even an issue. What people must be consider if those information which is inside the former life are hard to be find than now could be taking seriously which one would work to believe or which one typically the resource are convinced. If you receive the unstable resource then you understand it as your main information we will see huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen within you if you take The Truth as the daily resource information.

Richard Hennessy:

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Phyllis Sharrow:

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