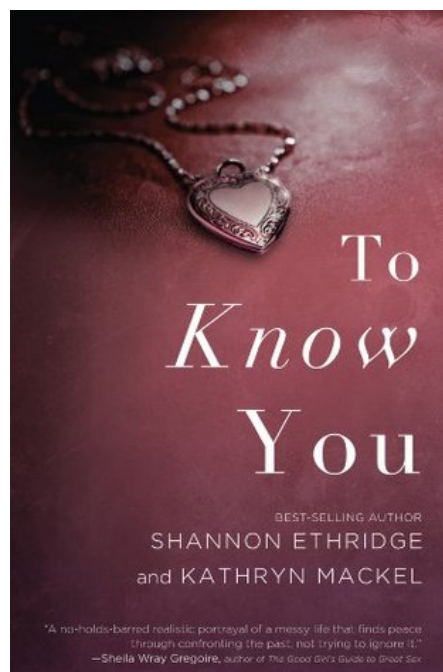




To Know You

Shannon Ethridge

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To Know You Shannon Ethridge

Julia

Whittaker's rocky past yielded two daughters, both given up for adoption as infants. Now she must find them to try to save her son.

Julia and Matt Whittaker's son has beaten the odds for thirteen years only to have the odds—and his liver—crash precipitously. The only hope for his survival is a “living liver” transplant, but the transplant list is long and Dillon's time is short. His two older half-sisters, born eighteen months apart to two different fathers, offer his only hope for survival.

But can Julia ask a young woman—someone she surrendered to strangers long ago and has never spoken with—to make such a sacrifice to save a brother she's never known? Can she muster the courage to journey back into a shame-filled season of her life, face her choices and their consequences, and find any hope of healing?

And what if she discovers in her own daughters' lives that a history of foolish choices threatens to repeat itself? Julia knows she's probably embarking on a fool's errand—searching for the daughters she abandoned only now that she needs something from them. But love compels Julia to take this journey. Can grace and forgiveness compel her daughters to join her?

In *To Know You*, Shannon Ethridge and Kathryn Mackel explore how the past creates the present . . . and how even the most shattered lives can be redeemed.

To Know You Details

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From Reader Review To Know You for online ebook

Kate says

Amazing!! Shannon takes you on a journey with this family that is both breathtaking and yet so real! When we make choices in life, those choices can go on to affect our lives for years to come. No matter how long we are carrying around baggage, God is always there saying "that's not yours to carry, it's mine!" As we walk with Julia through her life we see how hard and yet how easy healing and restoration can be! There isn't a relationship in our lives that this intricate, beautiful story doesn't cover! Marriage, children, adoption, birth families, siblings, half siblings, friends, parents-you name it-it's there! I started the book and was hooked, following Julia's life and that of her friends and family! Shannon has weaved a powerful story of real life and the healing and restoration, God has for all of us!!

Kristen Dutkiewicz says

I was hesitant with this book when it first began, and skeptical of how "preachy" it could be. However, once I kept reading, I found all the main characters to be likable and good people. While "To Know You" certainly referenced the power of God, there were still so many other factors to this book.

The story centers around Julia, her son, and two daughters she had given up for adoption. When her son is in desperate need of a liver transplant, Julia finally resorts to contacting the daughters she gave up years ago to find if either is a match.

This book truly showed that where there is darkness, there is also light, and I found myself consistently curious about what the final outcome would be.

Leona says

Review of To Know You by Shannon Ethridge and Kathryn Mackel

From booksneeze.com

"Julia Whittaker's rocky past yielded two daughters, both given up for adoption as infants. Now she must find them to try to save her son.

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Leona's Review:

This is an emotional book to read. I have known people who have been adopted and I am sure the question is "who are my parents?" I have always thought personally that when the mother gives up her child it is out of love.

I just finished *Cry of the Peacock* today and part of the book deals with unmarried women. One character, Hetty, does give up her son and it was an emotional read.

The book goes back on forth on the time periods and so it can be a little confusing. Each chapter has a date, time and location which helps.

Julia's daughters are given up for adoption. Destiny, born with the same name, and Chloe, born with the name Hope.

Destiny is very feisty and has just thrown her boyfriend, Luke, from the home as he now believes it is wrong to live together. Chloe is married to Jack who has their entire lives planned.

I find deceit when Chloe finds a friend on a chat site on the Internet. I find heartbreak and being unsure when the young women are to meet with their fathers. I find love when the Whittakers try to help their dying son. I find God is there when he is called. I find love from Julia and Luke and Jack and Matt. I find confusion when Chloe and Destiny are unsure of what to do for a brother they never met and they are also strangers.

This is a good read . I am not sure one can find their bio-parents and children so quickly but I still liked the book. It brings closeness to families.

It gives one to think about adoption and donors. I do have close friends who have had the blessings of receiving from donors.

The book is dedicated:

(From Shannon) "To my sister Donna, in anticipation of getting to know you more when we meet again in Heaven."

(From Kathryn) "To Jeanne Dignan, who blesses me even now."

Advance Acclaim on the front page of the book.

There is a reading group guide on page 347.

Question #9 : How did you see God's sovereignty, mercy, and unconditional love unfold through the development of the characters?

Acknowledgements on page 351.

An except from *Veil of Secrets* on page 353.

About the authors on page 360.

Go to this site for more information:

<http://litfusegroup.com/blog/the-stor...>

Official site:<http://www.shannonethridge.com/to-kno...>

I received a complimentary copy to read and review from Litfuse Publicity Group. Published by Thomas Nelson. The opinions are my own. I give it a strong 4 star.

Nancy Ganzon says

I absolute loved this book. Even cried a little while reading it.

Margaret Tidwell says

To Know You by Shannon Ethridge & Kathryn Mackel was a good book to read. I really enjoyed reading this and I have to say I love how the book came full circle and I was in love with the ending to this book. I found that at times I would get pissed off at Julia by how she acted and other times I totally understood why she did the things that she did. There are so many ups and downs in this book that kept me going because I was always wondering what was going to happen next with the characters. Like I said before the book goes full circle and I loved that about it. I am so glad I got the chance to read this book.

Kelsey says

To Know You by Shannon Ethridge is a novel filled with a roller coaster of emotions. Julia and Matt Whittaker's son, Dillon, is in need of a living liver transplant. Julia must reconnect with her past and see if love, forgiveness, and understanding from the two daughters she gave up for adoption at a rough time in her life can be made to save her son. I would suggest this book to someone who likes a book with a variety of emotions, and a book that has you on the edge of your seat, constantly wondering what will happen next.

Kathy says

Julia Whittaker gave up her two daughters for adoption over 20 years ago, and we are taken on a journey to find them in the hope of saving her dying son Dillon. A really interesting, beautifully woven Christian Fiction story. This story tugs at the heart strings and quite often I was unable to put the book down - a wonderful story about facing up to decisions of the past and then taking each day as it comes and moving forward. 4.5 stars.....

Kathy says

4.5 stars.

In *To Know You* by **Shannon Ethridge & Kathryn Mackel**, Julia Whittaker is forced to revisit her painful past in order to save her thirteen year old son Dillon's life.

In an effort to give her daughters a better life, Julia gave both of her babies up for adoption. The adoptions were closed and she has had no contact with her daughters or their adoptive families. When their last hope for a donor for Dillon falls through, Julia reluctantly seeks out her now adult daughters to see if they are a match for the life-saving transplant Dillon so desperately needs. Her oldest daughter, Destiny, is brash, outspoken and at first, she flatly rejects Julia request. But her curiosity about her half-sister Chloe leads Destiny to make an outrageous proposal. If Julia will introduce her to Chloe, Destiny will consider getting tested to see if she is a match for Dillon's transplant. What follows is an unforgettable journey of hope, faith and healing for Julia, Destiny and Chloe.

To Know You is full of surprises and interesting twists and turns and that includes Julia's past. The circumstances surrounding both of her pregnancies are very different and not at all what I was expecting.

The relationships are revealed through flashbacks when Chloe and Destiny decide they want to meet their fathers. The two men are very different and their reactions to meeting their daughters reflect not only the unique circumstances of their previous relationships with Julia but their current lives as well.

Chloe and Destiny could not be more different. Destiny is strong-willed and as a teenager, she was rebellious and headstrong. As an adult, she has forged her own path, successfully creating a lucrative career as a make-up artist. With the help of her longtime boyfriend, Luke, Destiny's wild partying days are a thing of the past but their relationship is currently on shaky ground.

Chloe is the complete opposite of Destiny. She is married to her childhood sweetheart Jack and her life is well-ordered and predictable. Jack has their future mapped out and they both adhere to his strict schedule for their education and their professional life. Chloe is growing frustrated with both her marriage and career choice, but she is unable to voice her dissatisfaction to Jack. Julia and Destiny provide her the perfect excuse to escape her confining marriage for a brief period of time.

Dillon's health is quite precarious and there is a tremendous sense of urgency throughout the entire novel. Julia's interactions with Destiny and Chloe are fraught with tension and she is always careful not to pressure them into a quick decision. Her worry for Dillon is tempered by her growing concerns for her daughters and the situations they are facing. She often turns to her husband, Matt, not only for support but for spiritual guidance as well. Their strong faith sustains them when their fears threaten to overwhelm them.

While there is a strong element of faith in *To Know You*, it is never preachy. Instead, **Shannon Ethridge & Kathryn Mackel** gently demonstrate that God is there to help shoulder our burdens and that while His forgiveness is absolute, forgiving ourselves is often the most difficult obstacle to overcome.

Jessica says

This book is absolutely wonderful, and has it all. I didn't want to put it down! As I was reading it, I had the thought that it will be whatever the reader needs it to be -- from simply a well-written compelling Christian novel, to either a lesson in forgiveness, or in how God intends marriage to be, or that it's ok to talk about and think about sex and be sexual in marriage because that's how God created us and it's one of the gifts He's given us. And all the twists and turns! When I was nearing the end, I thought I had it figured out but was thrown for a loop yet again!

Samantha Brandt Wright says

I enjoyed the story line of this novel and for the most part it was a nice read. Epic failure with the ending however as I feel like it was rushed and just the same old 'everybody wins' ending. That did not change the fact that it was a good read and for my time on vacation it kept me entertained.

Karen Korb says

About The Book: Julia Whittaker's rocky past yielded two daughters, both given up for adoption as infants.

Now she must find them to try to save her son. Julia and Matt Whittaker's son has beaten the odds for thirteen years only to have the odds—and his liver—crash precipitously. The only hope for his survival is a "living liver" transplant, but the transplant list is long and Dillon's time is short. His two older half-sisters, born eighteen months apart to two different fathers, offer his only hope for survival. But can Julia ask a young woman—someone she surrendered to strangers long ago and has never spoken with—to make such a sacrifice to save a brother she's never known? Can she muster the courage to journey back into a shame-filled season of her life, face her choices and their consequences, and find any hope of healing? And what if she discovers in her own daughters' lives that a history of foolish choices threatens to repeat itself? Julia knows she's probably embarking on a fool's errand—searching for the daughters she abandoned only now that she needs something from them. But love compels Julia to take this journey. Can grace and forgiveness compel her daughters to join her? In *To Know You*, Shannon Ethridge and Kathryn Mackel explore how the past creates the present . . . and how even the most shattered lives can be redeemed.

About The Author: *Shannon Ethridge* is a best-selling author, speaker, and certified life coach with a master's degree in counseling/human relations from Liberty University. She has spoken to college students and adults since 1989 and is the author of 21 books, including the million-copy best-selling *Every Woman's Battle* series. She is a frequent guest on TV and radio programs and mentors aspiring writers and speakers through her BLAST Program (Building Leaders, Authors, Speakers & Teachers.) *Kathryn Mackel* is a best-selling author and acclaimed screenwriter for Disney and Fox. She was on the screenwriting team for *Left Behind: The Movie*, and Frank Peretti's *Hangman's Curse*. She is the acclaimed author of "The Surrogate", "The Departed", and "The Hidden" and resides in Boston, Massachusetts, with her husband.

My Thoughts On The Book: This story touched a nerve with me. My best friend tried to find her birth mom when my friend's son came down with a rare disease. I felt a lot of emotions I experienced with her at that time. This book is by far one of the best books I have read in a while. It was absolutely wonderful, and in my opinion, had everything a good book needs. I didn't want to put it down! Once I started reading this story I did not want to eat, sleep, or work. I just wanted to dive into the story. Everytime I thought I had it figured out I would be thrown for a loop and the ending was quite a surprise. I would have never seen that one coming. The book covers a multitude of topics but the biggest one is redemption as you are taken on a journey that keeps you on the edge of your seat throughout the whole story. The book may be fictional, but the realism in the story would catch your breath. This book is definitely a must read!

Statement of Disclosure: I received an paperback copy of this title from Litfuse Publishing Group as part of their Blogging for Books blogger review program . I am disclosing this in accordance with the FTC 16 CFR, Part 255 'Guides concerning the use of endorsements and testimonials in advertising. I was not asked to write a positive review and all opinions expressed are entirely my own. Thanks guys for letting me read this and participate

Melina says

This is a very deep and moving story, it took me a while to finish it because it is so emotional, I finished wiping tears from my eyes. This is a story of a woman, Julia Whittaker, who gave up two daughter's, by two different fathers, for adoption. She seeks them out because her son is dying from liver failure. She finds them to see if they would be possible matches, and would be willing to donate part of their liver for Dillon. First she finds Destiny, who lives in LA and has just broken up with her boyfriend. She then goes to North Carolina, with Destiny in tow, to find Chloe, who she had named Hope. Chloe is married to a very controlling man. The two girls agree to get tested if Julia takes them to meet their birth fathers. There is lots of drama and a few mistakes on this journey, it is a journey of discovery and healing for all the characters. I

won't give away the ending, I'll just say again it left me in tears, but were they happy tears or not, I highly recommend you read this wonderfully captivating book to find out. Great job! I look forward to more!

I received a complimentary copy of this book for my honest review.

Jalynn Patterson says

About the Book:

Years ago, Julia Whittaker gave up two daughters for adoption. Now she must find them to try to save the life of her son.

Julia and Matt Whittaker's son was diagnosed with biliary atresia at birth. Dillon has beaten the odds for thirteen years only to have the odds—and his liver—crash precipitously. The only hope for his survival is a transplant. He can receive a “living liver” transplant but neither his parents, nor various family members and friends, are compatible.

The transplant list is long and Dillon's time is short. Very short.

He has two chances for a compatible liver: his two older half-sisters, born eighteen months apart and adopted at birth.

But can Julia ask a young woman—someone she surrendered to strangers—to donate a portion of her body to a brother she's never known? Will either sister even be a match for their half-brother? Will either of them show mercy and courage if they are?

Julia knows she's probably on a fool's errand—reaching out to the daughters she abandoned only now that she needs them. But what other choice does she have except to try?

About the Author:

Shannon Ethridge is a best-selling author, speaker, and certified life coach with a master's degree in counseling/human relations from Liberty University. She has spoken to college students and adults since 1989 and is the author of 21 books, including the million-copy best-selling Every Woman's Battle series. She is a frequent guest on TV and radio programs and mentors aspiring writers and speakers through her BLAST Program (Building Leaders, Authors, Speakers & Teachers.)

Kathryn Mackel is a best-selling author and acclaimed screenwriter for Disney and Fox. She was on the screenwriting team for *Left Behind: The Movie* and *Frank Peretti's Hangman's Curse*. She is the acclaimed author of *The Surrogate*, *The Departed*, and *The Hidden* and resides in Boston, Massachusetts, with her husband.

My Review:

Julie and her husband just found out their son has a few chance of making to the next year all because of his liver failure. Julie takes the news hard, so hard that she ends up in surgery that very day. But her husband springs an idea in her head that she thought would never be possible. She takes a private jet on a cross country trying to find the two daughters she gave up for adoption 24 years prior. But will they take a chance for the brother they never knew?

Destiny lives in L.A., life was as it should be in her little world, until her boyfriend found Jesus that is. That soon meant her world came crashing down, and what is this, a woman saying she is her biological mother?! The woman that didn't want her all those years ago, what was she doing here now? So Destiny did a nice thing and went to dinner with the woman. She later found out what the woman was there for and stormed off leaving the woman alone in the restaurant. Later on she starts to think about what the woman had said and it started to sink in that she had a sister and she was gonna meet her.

Chloe has a wonderful husband and a beautiful house, what more could she ask for? Except she needs a vacation, she's tried off school, work, home day in and day out, she needs a change. But how can she get that through her husband's thick head? And that's when two women show up at her door. And they take her on a ride of a lifetime. She has only known them for a few weeks and they are apparently related to her. She hopes to help the little brother that she never knew and possibly even meet her father along with Destiny's. This trip is going to be one to remember.

****Disclosure**** This book was sent to me free of charge for my honest review from Litfuse Publicity.

Jo says

To Know You

By Shannon Ethridge

Genre - Contemporary fiction

Synopsis

Years ago, Julia Whittaker gave up two daughters for adoption. Now she must find them to try to save the life of her son.

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Julia knows she's probably on a fool's errand—reaching out to the daughters she abandoned only now that she needs them. But what other choice does she have except to try?

Review

This book is amazing, "To Know You" is a real tear-jerker. Its highly emotional and you should have a box of tissues standing by while reading this book.

This book is about the choices we make in life and how those choices can go on to affect our lives, many years later. It tackled so many issues, such as marriage, adoption, children, birth-parents, siblings, half-siblings, friends, the whole gambit of life experiences.

Julia Whittaker, finds her daughters Destiny, who lives in LA and has just broken up with her boyfriend. They then travel together to North Carolina, to find Chloe who is married to a very controlling man. The two girls

agree to get tested if Julia takes them to meet their birth fathers. Ultimately To know you is a book about forgiveness and hope and faith and discovery.

Well worth a read.

3.5 stars

Pam Chaffin says

A contemporary Christian fiction novel. It is a multifaceted story, with interesting characters that struggle with their Christianity at times, because like all people, they are flawed and real. I enjoyed this novel. I especially enjoyed the fact that this was a great story about realistic characters, but without unnecessary and inappropriate content.
