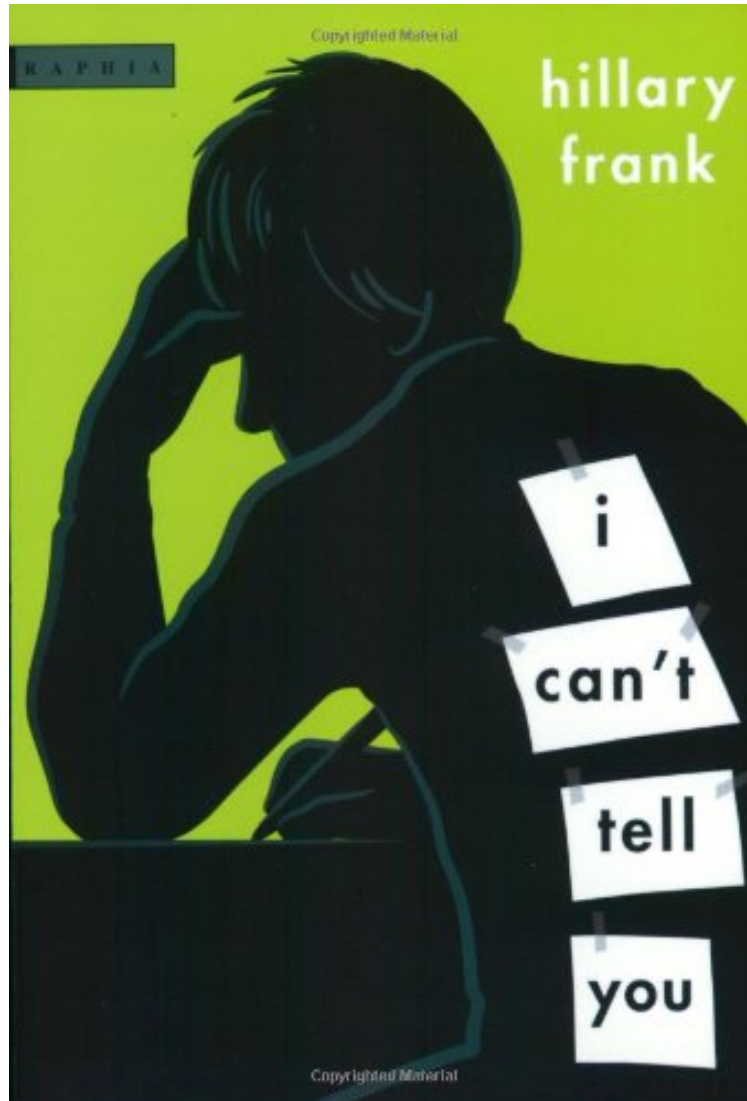


[Download] I Can't Tell You

I Can't Tell You

Hillary Frank

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Hillary Frank : I Can't Tell You before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised I Can't Tell You:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very true to life....By dSavannahI read - and loved - the author's first book, *Better Than Running at Night*, and so picked up this one to see if she was able to continue her unique and interesting narrative style. Not only does she continue it, she turns it on its head, with a completely NEW narrative style: the story is entirely told via notes written on napkins, dry erase boards, etc. I'll admit, it's kind of hard to get used to the style, and at first I wondered what in the heck was going on, but once I fell into the rhythm, it made total

sense. Jake is a college freshman, and he stops talking out loud after a huge fight with his best friend and roommate. Of course, he still has to communicate, so he turns to writing, and he finds it is not necessarily any better at not being misinterpreted when he's writing instead of speaking. Jake is struggling with the loss of that friendship; the desire to turn a friendship with a girl, Xandra, into something more, but fear at losing that friendship; his parents; what to do with his life after college, etc. In short, all of the things you struggle with mentally at that age. The author perfectly captured the angst and joy and sadness and fear of that time in your life... almost uncomfortably so for me, 20+ years on from all that... yet, still not so far away that I've forgotten the "does he like me, does he not like?" dance.... I gave this four stars because there was more to be explored, and more I wanted to know, but the narrative structure kind of limited that; however, a great YA read overall. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Page Turner By J.E. Stephens Jake makes the decision to stop talking after he has fight with his best friend. During the fight he said some awful things that he can't take back. Jake thinks if he starts communicating in writing instead of talking, he will have more control of his words. I couldn't put this book down. I wondered what it would be like to communicate with written words only. Would Jake be able to survive in college with only written communication? This was a very interesting premise for a story and I enjoyed it very much. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Moving and funny By Kristina C. I absolutely devoured this unique book. "I Can't Tell You" is an excellent read. It is filled with humor and emotion and I felt an incredibly strong connection to the main character, Jake, and his "relationship" with his friend, Xandra. I felt and related to Jake's desperation to tell Xandra he's in love with her, and his struggle to hold her at arm's length as not to ruin their close friendship. Jake's despair over watching Xandra be with someone else and losing his best friend, Sean, is entirely realistic. Frank uses realistic teenage language, and does not try too hard to sound like a college student - in my opinion, she is right on target. The format of this novel is a little difficult to adjust to at first, but I had no problem with it later on. At times, however, I wished this book could have been written as a "regular" novel, as I strived for some details that could not be explained through Jake and Xandra writing on napkins, dry erase boards, etc. The ending of this book was also a disappointment, which is why I only give this four stars. I desperately wanted Xandra and Jake to end up together - when they didn't, I felt as if all the hope I had for them diminished, even if it seems both characters are going to be all right without each other. All in all, this was a great read and I highly suggest it.

After he opens his big mouth in a big fight with his best friend, Jake concludes that talking = trouble. He decides that communicating through writing is safer. Through notes scribbled on napkins and in notebooks, on upside-down calculators, and on walls with pudding-covered fingers, Jake explores new ways to express himself. But there are also the notes he never sends. To his flirty friend. Who is just a friend. But could be more than a friend. But isn't—or is she? Hillary Frank's inventive style envelops her readers in a new dimension of storytelling. Jake + Xandra = a story about what it means to be "just friends." All without saying a word.

From School Library Journal Grade 10 Up—During a huge fight with his best friend and college dorm-mate, Jake says something he cannot take back. As a result, he decides to communicate with everyone by writing—using dry-erase boards, Post-its, stained napkins, etc.—figuring he can better control what he has to say by not opening his mouth. Friends at first find him weird, but then play along and decide it's cool. His mother is sure he is cracking up, but his father goes along with him. All the while, he's obsessed with trying to find out if Xandra likes him or, you know, likes him. Each character Jake interacts with is represented by a different typeface and, in some cases, a "handwriting key" might be helpful to keep track of who's who. This unique writing style makes for attentive reading—and guesswork—as readers eavesdrop on Jake's otherwise typical social life and try to decipher what is actually going on. His inner struggles with feelings, friendships, and forgiveness are believable, but despite the highly personal nature of the story, the correspondence comes across as somewhat removed and impersonal as readers witness Jake's struggle to understand himself and, oh, yeah, maybe—or maybe not—to win the girl.—Roxanne Myers Spencer, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Gr. 9-12. Shooting off his big mouth (again), Jake alienates his best friend and college roommate, Sean. As a result, Jake takes a self-imposed vow of silence and communicates only in written messages. In fact, the text of Frank's playful investigation in narrative technique consists exclusively of Jake's messages, the written replies of others, and occasional drawings. The result is story as assemblage, always interesting to look at but sometimes confusing, and, at least initially, emotionally distancing. Most readers will eventually warm up to funny but feckless Jake and sympathize with his frustrated longings for Alexandra, but the unconventional way the story is told calls attention to itself and distracts from narrative continuity and reader-character empathy. Contemporary teens who communicate largely in instant messages may well disagree, but in either case, Frank's experiment is fascinating. Michael Cart Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved. Ultimately, the novel's engaging jumble of correspondence amounts to a study of vulnerability, tentatively concluding that, when it comes to romance, playing it safe can be a risky approach. Horn Book The insight Jake gains from his self-imposed silence is satisfying, if not entirely profound. The insights readers will gain, however, are perhaps deeper, as Frank manages to convey a credible

boy's-eye view on matters of the heart. The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books All in all, the author creates a story both clever and heartfelt. Publishers Weekly The carefully constructed, seemingly accidental nature of Jake and Xandra's story combines the banal with the amateur philosophizing of college, and invites interesting comparisons between sexual sophistication and real understanding of how to relate with others. Kirkus s Frank's experiment is fascinating. Booklist, ALA