

Reflective Truths

"WE WERE ALL HEADING FOR
EACH OTHER ON A COLLISION
COURSE, NO MATTER WHAT.
MAYBE SOME PEOPLE ARE
JUST MEANT TO BE
IN THE SAME STORY."

I'LL GIVE YOU THE SUN *A Novel by* JANDY NELSON

I'll Give You the Sun is the type of book that you begin on your way home and it makes you miss your stop on the train. Although young adult fiction, Jandy Nelson is a writer for all ages, giving life advice that stays with the reader long after turning the last page.

The story of *I'll Give You the Sun* is told through the alternating perspectives of fraternal Noah and Jude. Slightly younger brother Noah tells the first half, where readers learn the story of "NoahandJude" – who, like most twins, only feel complete when they are with each other. Their closeness is painted in a comforting light; the twins, while having two different personalities, are simultaneously one in the same. They coexist as if they are one individual – hence "NoahandJude," no space. Noah alludes to the fact that this can feel claustrophobic at times, almost as if the universe is not big enough for the two of them. This causes the twins to create a game; when faced with a situation where

they both want the same thing, they would gamble the world. The twins spilt up the oceans, the trees, the birds, and everything else in the universe. The sun is the most valuable piece of the universe.

"'Okay,' she says. 'Trees, stars, oceans. Fine.'

'And the sun, Jude.'

***'Oh, alright,' she says, totally surprising me. 'I'll
give you the sun.'"***

Throughout their lives, NoahandJude are reflections of each other; like mirrors, they are reversed opposites. Nevertheless, one is never too far from the other, no words needing to be exchanged through their twin telepathy. However, when tragedy strikes the Sweetwine family, NoahandJude do a complete three-sixty. They switch personalities, favorite parents, and even some friends. Ultimately, they become Noah and Jude.

As Jude tells the latter half of their story, Noah and Jude struggle to be a whole person without the other. Plot twist after plot twist, Nelson's characters, both major and minor, vibrantly burst through the page until they're sitting next to you, sharing a box of tissues as you both cry at the mess that is their lives.

"I think of that counselor telling me I was the house in the woods with no doors or windows. No way to get in or out, she said. But, she was wrong, because: Walls fall down."

Learn more about the [author](#) and her other novels!

Brittney Castagna is a semi-published writer who prefers her coffee iced and her puns intended. You can usually catch her walking around town, mostly because she doesn't own a car.

You can find *I'll Give You the Sun* at the [River's End Bookstore](#)

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Jandy Nelson is the kind of author whose rough drafts you wouldn't mind reading. She creates an honest picture of broken things – people, families, and yes, even their stories – and beautifully blends them together. Every aspect, from seemingly unimportant tidbits to more major moments, are connected and are needed in order to complete the puzzle. Something in Noah's story could be the key that unlocks a huge secret of Jude's, ultimately helping everything fall into place.

By the end of *I'll Give You the Sun*, the twins learn a couple of lessons that goes beyond the hardcover of a book:

1. You cannot divide the world. Someone will always end up envious and try to force blame onto places where blame cannot exist.
2. For every event that happens in your life, you only have half of the truth. You need two halves to make a whole.