



Meet Me Here

Bryan Bliss

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In a single night—graduation night—Thomas has to decide: Do what everyone has always expected of him? Or forge an entirely new path? Bryan Bliss's absorbing examination of one boy struggling with expectations and realities will appeal to readers of Sara Zarr and Chris Crutcher.

Thomas is supposed to leave for the army in the morning. His father was Army. His brother, Jake, is Army—is a hero, even, with the medals to prove it. Everyone expects Thomas to follow in that fine tradition. But Jake came back from overseas a completely different person, and that has shaken Thomas's certainty about his own future. And so when his long-estranged friend Mallory suggests one last night of adventure, Thomas takes her up on the distraction. Over the course of this single night, Thomas will lose, find, resolve, doubt, drive, explore, and leap off a bridge. He'll also face the truth of his brother's post-traumatic stress disorder and of his own courage. In Bryan Bliss's deft hands, graduation night becomes a night to find yourself, find each other, find a path, and know that you always have a place—and people—to come back to.

Meet Me Here Details

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From Reader Review Meet Me Here for online ebook

Laura.125Pages says

This review was originally posted on www.125pages.com *Meet Me Here* by Bryan Bliss had some amazing moments and one giant tired trope. Set over the course of one crazy night, Thomas and his childhood best friend Mallory set out to see if they can complete their younger selves' bucket list before Thomas leaves for basic training. Thomas is supposed to be Army, like his father and brother before him, but his brother came back from fighting different and Thomas does not know if he can go through the same thing.

The plot of *Meet Me Here* had so many great elements. A last hurrah night out for a teen boy, a veteran with PTSD, a long-lost friend re-surfacing; it could have been magical. And many parts of it were, however the ever-present horrible YA parents were present and I am just so over that. I did like the writing of Bryan Bliss. He was able to keep the action going and he was able to paint a vivid picture of small town life and the citizens in it in a really great way. The world he built was very real and I enjoyed seeing it through the character's eyes. The pacing, once the story got started was great. Set over one night, the story ebbed and flowed in a very realistic way. There were plenty of emotions in this read, but at times they seemed disjointed. When I thought someone should be angry they were not and this happened a few times. I enjoyed most of the characters in this tale. Thomas and Mallory had great chemistry and I enjoyed their banter. I loathed the parents, and while the other cast members were there, none of them were stand outs.

Meet Me Here is Bryan Bliss's début. I think it was a strong first effort, but the tired awful parents trope has got to go. I have said before that I really enjoy male leads in YA and I thought Thomas was done very well. Bliss created a character with real feeling and I enjoyed his journey. I also really enjoyed that the ending was very open-ended, as there are so many ways to picture what happened next. I will be interested to see what Bliss comes out with as a follow-up, because I do see true potential in his future.

Favorite lines - We stand there, facing each other, the skeletons of our childhood buried in the ground beneath us, the smell of the pine trees, the promises of everything we were to each other coming in every sound, every smell, every tiny speck of dirt that floats through the sunlight.

Biggest cliché - I have to do what my family wants.

Have you read *Meet Me Here*, or added it to your TBR? This book was most likely received free from the publisher/author in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Debbie Narh says

Meet me Here makes me so sad, guys.

And I get it. There's a lot of shitty things going on. Thomas has a really sad life, his brother is not himself, his parents are abusive, and he has no say in anything. However, that doesn't mean that by bringing in an old flame will solve his damn problems. This book is just a joke. I just hate how the plot is, the way Mallory randomly shows up in his life. Why? No? Stop? On top of all of this, Bliss has made the story insanely predictable (and I say this while skipping over quite a large chunk of it). By this, I mean that despite the story

being about the way Thomas and his brother are different, their relationship is nothing new. The brother is the go-to golden boy who loses all sense of himself. now, I'm not saying that there is anything wrong with this, what I am saying is that it is played out and not executed as well as it could be because the only times we really hear of him are when their father comes into play.

I wish I could have liked Meet Me Here but it lacks in every area. The writing is nothing stellar, the character are extremely dull and of the generic kind, and the plot...well what plot is there, really? I mean, nothing matters in this book. Instead, if you're looking for brother relationships with war themes, I recommend Something like Normal and The Things a Brother Knows.

Sonny Mitchell says

Heck, that was beautiful. I'm definitely going to read whatever Bryan Bliss writes.

Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to HarperCollins and Edelweiss.)

*“A familiar tightness pulls at my lungs. If there was a time to tell anyone, this is it. It would be so easy: open my mouth and say the words.
I’m not going to the army.”*

This was a YA contemporary story about a boy who decided he didn't want to join the army even though he'd signed up.

I felt quite sorry for Thomas because it was obvious how much his family expected from him, and he was quite brave to admit to himself that joining the army wasn't what he wanted, even if he wasn't brave enough to tell his father that.

The storyline in this took place the night before Thomas was supposed to be starting his army training, and involved Thomas looking for his older brother Jake who had gone missing, as well as spending time with an old friend. The pace in this was pretty good though, and things moved along quite nicely.

The ending to this was also pretty good, and I was satisfied with the way things worked out for Thomas.

7.25 out of 10

Mrs says

I could not put this down! Such a great story that sucks you right in.

Neil (or bleed) says

The nostalgia is strong in this book that reading it makes me miss my childhood days and my childhood friends. In a stressful life I have right now, remembering and reminiscing my days as a child is such a sweet thing; a fulfilling moment that spread a warm feeling in my heart. And I'm thanking Meet Me Here for that.

Bliss's second YA novel is a remarkably well-written and well - told book. A profound novel with good pacing and realistic characters. Even the story only happens in one night, it conveys a lot of desirable things that made this book a worthy read. It's absorbing and it's absolutely gut-wrenching.

First and foremost, I like how this is nostalgic in a way where Thomas and his long-estranged friend, Mallory remembers and relives their past. I like the subtlety of it all that I thought Meet Me Here is all about Thomas and Thomas alone. It wasn't. I like how the characters grow in each chapter of this novel, especially Thomas who comes up on his own term to face the inevitable. I like how the book shares knowledge about the trauma of war. And I like the open-ended ending the book has, justifying that Thomas has lot of choices with his life; his future.

Meet Me Here is all about choices and decision and the struggle with reality and expectation. And it's relatable.

In this novel, Thomas is to decide whether he will follow the path taken by his father and brother-- being an Army (which is expected to him by the people around him, especially by his father). Or to embark a new path for himself especially after his brother came back as a completely different person.

It's almost the same with everybody, right? That expectations and pressure from the people around you. That feeling of reluctance and confusion whether to follow the current or flow against it. That indecisiveness to push through a concrete plan you made for yourself after witnessing an unexpected turn of events. It's difficult and exhausting. Fulfilling their expectations, weighing things, deciding and all that.

Jamie says

This had potential. It's the story of a boy scared to death to go to war like his father and brother, who has PTSD and a whole lot of baggage, and it feels like that's a story that should be told. But there's just too much going on, not enough description (what color is the protagonist's hair? Is Mallory tall? What kind of house do these people live in? Basic fill in the blanks) and there are too many damn characters by the end, and it's just plot plot plot without any grounding (WHAT TIME IS IT?). I normally don't finish books that I'm not enjoying but honestly? I did not like this book.

S says

★★★★★ **5 AMERICAN-GRAFFITI-WORTHY STARS !!!**

"I want to believe that we make our own plans. I want to believe that we are the ones in control of our lives."

OMG I was just telling everyone how I might be too old for YA books already since I couldn't connect or relate to my last few books at all. And then **THIS. THIS BOOK HAPPENED** (and now I love YA again lol).

For those who couldn't make sense of what I was trying to say; American Graffiti (directed by the epitome of genius Mr. George Lucas) is probably one of the best coming-of-age movies ever existed (only second to something like The Breakfast Club and Ferris Bueller's Day Off). And Oh Boy, does this book remind me of that movie...with a twist, of course.

Most of them are going to college; none of their parents want them anywhere near the army, even if the chance of active duty is remote. They don't want heroes, just happiness.

It's the last day of youth. For the senior kids of Hickory, North Carolina, the graduation parties were held, the plans were set, and tomorrow's where the future began. But **Thomas Bennett** had a plan of his own, and he was more scared and confused than ever. Following it meant betraying the whole town and disappointing his family. But anything could happen in one night, and with a help from his friends, old and new, tonight's going to be the kind of night where everything changed.

Music: Explosions In The Sky

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ziw4y...>

I'm looking for a way to do this book justice. On the surface, there's nothing relatable between me and this book at all. I'm a city girl my whole life, so I have no idea what it's like growing up among friends in a place where everyone knows my name. Hell, I'm not even American. I have not the slightest clue about life in North Carolina. I have no in-depth experience on military culture. Driving a truck, shotgun-shooting beer cans and taking trips to the waffle house in the dead of the night sounds like a joke to my ears.

But somehow I get it. I get Thomas and his struggle. I get Mallory and her decision. I get Jake and his PTSD

ghosts. I just get it. My heart ached. I wanted to weep for some things I couldn't define.

All my life I work hard for this one thing; to get out of the city and never ever look back. It doesn't mean I hate my hometown. It is and always will be part of my existence, one of the tiny little things that define who I am. But I guess the feeling of wanting to break free is universal. Some people are just destined to be lost with a hope to find the place they truly belong, simple as that.

As I watch them walk away, I'm struck by how much I'm going to miss Hickory no matter where I end up, a thought that until now hasn't really materialized for me. This town, these people are like DNA. Pulsing in my veins, making my body work. It's why I'm so worried about leaving, about letting them down. It's like denying a part of my flesh.

As we accompanied Thomas through his last day in town, we'd get a glimpse into his life prior this very day; his friends, his family, his fears. ***FRIENDSHIP-GAME-IS-ON-POINT ALERT*** The friendship among characters would definitely warm your heart. **Mallory** was probably a bit one-dimensional, a manic pixie dream girl to ease Thomas's indecisiveness toward his looming future (the next day, to be exact). **Wayne and Sinclair** were also an amazing addition to the story. They reminded me of my childhood friends whom I lost contact with from years ago.

"I think courage is somewhere between doing what you want to do and what you need to do," he says. "And that's on you, man."

This book will warm your heart by reminding you of the old days, when you were young and hopeless, full of dreams and heartbreaks. The time when you felt like you'd conquer the world – if you're first allowed to overstay pass the curfew, of course. Also it brought you an insight on American military family and how war could affect one's life beyond the battlefield. A fast-paced, easy read that would stay with you for quite some time. It's totally worth it.

Find out more at:
<https://thebleedingeyes.wordpress.com>

Clara says

I don't really know what I was expecting from this, but I just didn't feel attached to the book at all. I didn't really care about any of the characters, and the plot didn't interest me and it never felt like it was going anywhere. It just wasn't for me.

Naima ☆ says

This was just a big mess. It was all over the place and it felt like the author just strung together whatever words that came to his mind.

Firstly, the whole book takes place over the course of one night and I've never been a big fan of that. It was impossible to get attached. I just didn't care about the characters or the plot. A plot that made no sense to me.

Idk what I was expecting but nothing mattered to me and it was boring.

And the way Mallory showed up back in Thomas's life after years of not talking and going back to being the best of chums was so random and um that just doesn't happen.

I guess this just wasn't for me.

Nina Test says

I received this book from a good reads giveaway :) This is a story of a teenage boy on graduation night facing the decision of whether or not to join the army as his father and brother have. During the several events taking place on this night he reconnects with Mallory, an old friend, and faces challenges. It's a great story written well ! I love the cover for this book and the storyline. I enjoyed reading this one. I wish that the ending was elaborated somewhat more on. I felt the readers could have been given some more insight. I also felt that there was a lot going on in one night. It made it hard to believe that this took place within a few hours... Anyway over all it was a good read ;)

Forever Young Adult says

Graded By: Brian

Cover Story: Zombie Horde

Drinking Buddy: Meh

Testosterone Level: PG-13 (some violence, adult situations, alcohol and drug use, crude humor)

Talky Talk: And the Moral Is...

Bonus Factor: Wingmen

Bromance Status: Distant Admirer

Read the full book report [here](#).

Aline says

Meet Me Here by Bryan Bliss *3.5 Stars*

For one night we follow Thomas in his pursuit of happiness. It's graduation night and Thomas, an eighteen-year-old boy, is struggling with taking the path that he wants or meeting his father's expectations. Thomas is

supposed to be like his father and brother and join the Army. But after going to war, his brother Jake, came back from Afghanistan emotionally damaged and Thomas can't recognize his own brother. That has made Thomas re-think what he truly wants to do with his future.

Mallory, a childhood friend persuades Thomas to rekindle their friendship by doing things they used to do when kids. Thomas is avoiding the necessary talk with his father and Mallory is avoiding the talk with her boyfriend, and together they spend the night searching for one last adventure.

Honestly, the book's blurb tells you everything about the book.

I enjoyed the read. It was quick paced, and the characters were very relatable. Their graduation night was fun and I was happy with the way things developed. That being said, I'm not a fan of stories that happen in one day/night/setting. I still enjoyed it though.

3.5 stars.

Jaime Arkin says

This just wasn't for me and it wasn't really what I was expecting.

It makes me sad to say that.

Full review to come.

Tee loves Kyle Jacobson says

Meet Me Here is an amazing read that will capture your heart right from the beginning. It deals with some tough issues that teens face everyday. From decisions on where to go to college to deciding on whether or not to get married, to deciding on whether or not to join the army.

In one day Thomas Bennett will go through hell and back. It is graduation night and Thomas is supposed to be partying and saying goodbye to everyone before he goes off to the army. Only Thomas does not want to go to the army because his older brother came back from war and he is messed up so he does not want to go off to war and come back like his brother.

While Thomas is at a graduation party he rekindles his friendship with Mallory. They were best friends when they were younger but Thomas's father put an end to that and on this night Thomas and Mallory will put their hurt aside and have a night to remember. Thomas will learn a very valuable lesson and so will Mallory.

The one thing I did not like was the ending. I needed to know what happened to Thomas, Mallory, and Jake.
