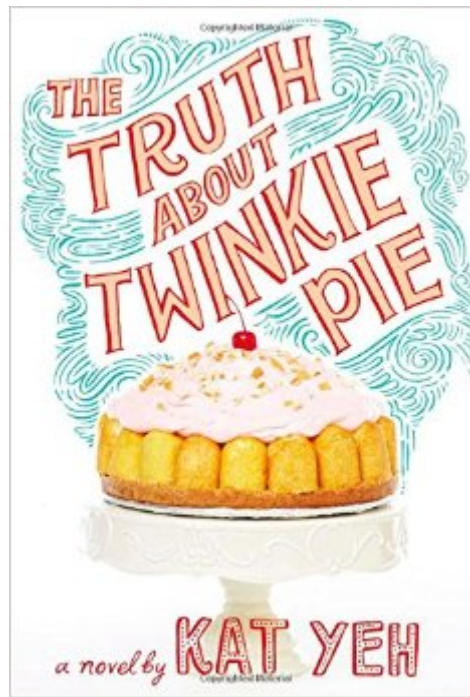


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# The Truth About Twinkie Pie



## Synopsis

There's something about asking for Impossible Things. For one little second, they feel Possible. Take two sisters making it on their own: brainy twelve-year-old GiGi and junior-high-dropout-turned-hairstylist DiDi. Add a million dollars in prize money from a national cooking contest and a move from the trailer parks of South Carolina to the North Shore of Long Island. Mix in a fancy new school, new friends and enemies, a first crush, and a generous sprinkling of family secrets. That's the recipe for *The Truth About Twinkie Pie*, a voice-driven middle-grade debut about the true meaning of family and friendship.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 730 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers (January 27, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316236624

ISBN-13: 978-0316236621

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 1.2 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (44 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #155,246 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Drugs](#) #98 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Moving](#) #313 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Bought this book for my daughter about 3 days ago. Daughter is 11 and definitely likes to read. However, she is pretty darn picky and is known to give up on a book if it doesn't have her interest early on. She finished "Twinkie Pie" in under 3 days and had nothing but positive things to say about it. She said it was suspenseful, held her attention throughout and she even liked the recipes that were included and wants to make one this week. She also said, "dad, it has a serious plot twist that I can't tell you about." Sounds like a good choice for your teen reader.

GiGi Barnes never knew her mama. All she has are the recipes mama kept and her sister DiDi makes to keep Mama's memory alive. GiGi was raised by DiDi. After winning a lottery, they move from a quiet town in North Carolina to a ritzy town in NY so GiGi can get a great education. This is the "Recipe for Success" they planned. At first GiGi hates leaving the only home she's ever known. As she begins to make friends, she breaks away from DiDi's tight hold and forges her own success plan. Soon she begins to learn more about herself and the mama she never knew. This is a delightful and heartwarming story of love, loss, sacrifice, and what it means to be a family. GiGi's voice is pitch perfect 'tween, as are those of her classmates. The easy to follow recipes at the end of most chapters are a charming and unique addition. They bring out "mama's character in a way straightforward prose wouldn't. This is a book middle grade kids will enjoy. Try the impossible coconut pie...impossibly delicious!

My ten year old niece was doing her first book report on this book and I offered to help her with it. I bought the book and had some catching up to do since she was on chapter thirty something. As soon as I started reading the book I had a difficult time putting it down. It made me laugh, gasp, and cry. I finished the book in about two days, even before my niece finished it. Very cute book. Love it!

Twelve-year-old GiGi and her older sister DiDi leave their trailer park in South Carolina and move New York after DiDi wins a million dollars in a cooking contest. Life doesn't go from cinder and ashes to glass slippers and ball gowns however. DiDi is set on GiGi using that big, beautiful brain of her to make something of herself. DiDi and GiGi live above a ritz salon where DiDi does the hair of rich ladies while GiGi walks to one of the best schools in town. Little does DiDi realize that GiGi has worked out her very own recipe...a recipe for success...that includes making friends and having fun a lot more than studying and making A+ grades all the time. On GiGi's first day at school she meets a boy that just might be a dream come true with his Wish Pie eyes and floppy hair and willingness to listen to a girl from South Carolina with quite a few shocking stories to tell and even more shocking secrets to discover. GiGi and DiDi's new life will have more ups and downs than lumpy brownies, but if they remember what's important, who's important, they may just find the perfect recipe for family and true happiness. Kat Yeh did a wonderful job writing a novel that unfolds like a flower but is chock full of fun recipes and new ideas about what really makes a family. This is a perfect middle grades novel.

A real gem of a debut novel--fun to read, a truly unique narrative voice, innovative use of recipes (in

a \*middle-grade\* book?! Who knew?), and a plot that keeps even a reluctant reader engaged to the very end, and is appropriate for most every reader despite pulling no emotional punches. I loved every page of THE TRUTH ABOUT TWINKIE PIE, and I bet you will, too.

As an elementary school library coordinator, I've read a lot of middle grade novels, also reviewing this genre for SLJ. This is one of the best chapter books I've read in a long time. There's lots of juicy ingredients: poor, brainy, southern trailer-living girl transfers to posh NY private school; befriends cutest guy at school but immediately makes mortal enemies with one of the rich, cool girls; mom supposedly dead, but is she? Add in spicy, flavorful dialogue and a smart-talking hairdresser sister which all equals an incredibly enjoyable read. Highly recommended!

I was delighted by this book. I listened to the audiobook; as soon as I was done, I bought copies for my daughter and neighbor. It may be "teen lit", but I thoroughly enjoyed it. Kat transported me to the life of a teen trying to navigate a new town, new school, and new friends and the associated emotional roller-coaster. I have not yet tried any of the recipes, but they sure sound wonderful.

This books gets you quickly, has some twists and turns, warms the heart, inspires the culinary artist and chokes you up. Terrific middle grade book. I cannot wait to read it with my 9 year old, and my 14 year old already devoured it. Great first novel. When do we get the next one?

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