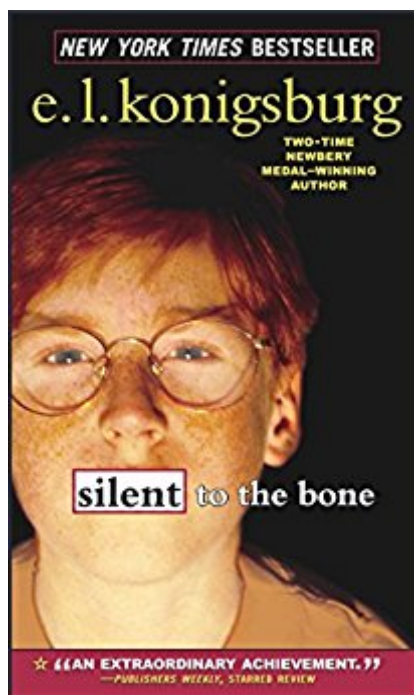


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# Silent To The Bone



## Synopsis

Connor is sure his best friend, Branwell, couldn't have hurt Branwell's baby half sister, Nikki. But Nikki lies in a coma, and Branwell is in a juvenile behavioral center, suspected of a horrible crime and unable to utter the words to tell what really happened. Connor is the only one who might be able to break through Branwell's wall of silence. But how can he prove Branwell didn't commit the unspeakable act of which he's accused when Branwell can't speak for himself?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Silence Is Shame I thought that the book Silent to the Bone by E.L. Konigsburg was a great book, and almost a perfect book. Throughout the story, I learned that some causes of being silent is shame. Branwell's silence was shown throughout the story by being ashamed, embarrassed, and disappointed. The main character shows this when he was not telling his parents the truth when he stopped talking to Connor, and the au pair controlling him. This story takes place in a university town. The main character, Branwell, has a baby half sister named Nikki. Both parents

decide the need someone to watch Nikki and Branwell when they are at work, so, they hire an au pair named Vivian. Vivian is from England and has an accent, and Branwell became very interested in her. One day, there was a horrible accident and Nikki becomes unconscious; because of this, Vivian forced Branwell to call 911 and right when they pick up the phone, Branwell becomes silent. Of course, Vivian blamed it on Branwell; because of this, Branwell's friend, Connor, knows that Branwell would never do such a thing and starts to investigate. The thirteen year old boy, Branwell, clearly showed that he was embarrassed of himself. One of the many places in the book that showed this is on pg. #114, "How about walking in on her in the bathtub?' I said. Branwell stopped looking sad the minute I mentioned the bath tub. Instead, he blushed. And then, I said, 'How about walking in on her the second time' (...) 'And the third time?' but now Branwell had jerked his head up as fast as he had jerked it down." This shows that he is embarrassed because he has blushed. The book clearly showed that Branwell was ashamed. One example of this is on pg. #247, where at this point Branwell felt shame about kissing Vivian on the back of her neck. "I didn't want my father to know. I didn't want anyone to know. So it became our little secret. Except that it became Vivian's secret more than mine. From that day forward I did whatever Vivian wanted me to do." This shows that he is ashamed because Vivian gets to control him. The character Branwell is a kid that loves to talk, but when he goes silent, you could tell that he was disappointed by the way that the author described his actions. Pg. #114, "Branwell lowered his head so fast, and so far, I thought that it would separate from his neck. He was blushing so much I felt like I could feel the heat across the room." Throughout all of this, we learned that the cause of being silent can be if you are ashamed, embarrassed, and disappointed. I give this book a five out of five stars: a must read!

Friendship: the state of being a friend; association as friends. "Friendship," also, "depends on interlocking time, place, and state of mind," as the author had said. Though true for Branwell Zamborska and Connor Kane, the real definition cannot be put into words - literally. Silent to the Bone by, E.L. Konigsburg, tells the story of courage, faith, and above all friendship. Konigsburg did a fabulous job writing this novel, as it was easily relatable to a teenage life, like mine. With his best friend silently locked up in the behavioral center, for something he is positive Branwell didn't do, Connor's whole world is turned upside down. There is nothing he can do now but testing their friendship and getting the information Branwell needs to talk. Will Connor's effort pay off in helping break the silence that is Branwell Zamborska? The main characters in Silent to the Bone are, Branwell, Connor, Margaret, and Vivian. Branwell, though now silenced, is the awkward but respected son of Mr. Zamborska, who ironically loves to talk. Connor is Branwell's devoted best

friend, determined on breaching Branwell's silence. Margaret, Connor's half-sister, is also devoted to both helping break Branwell's silence and hoping Nikki, Branwell's injured baby half-sister, will come out of her coma. Vivian is the Zamborska's British au pair in charge of taking care of Nikki. How credible these characters are plays a big role in believability of the entire plot, and all of the characters in this novel are extremely lifelike. In both their personalities and behaviors, and could easily be real people in our everyday lives. The setting of this present-day novel, *Silent to the Bone*, is primarily at Branwell's prison - the juvenile behavioral center. Every day he can, Connor goes and visits Branwell, communicating with him in their secret unique way. When Connor isn't visiting Branwell, he'll be at his half-sister Margaret's house. The behavioral center is believable, as teenagers are commonly blamed for things they didn't do. I've had my fair share of being blamed as well, easily connecting me and my life to the characters and theirs; a job well done on Konigsburg's part. This novel's setting is effective, as it shows how much Connor values their friendship and also that he is willing to help him break his silence. The plot of this book consists of Connor's struggle to get Branwell to talk. "Male Voice: ...what happened? British Accent: He dropped her. She won't wake up," after his accusation from the 9-1-1 phone call, Branwell's silence began. Since his silence insisted upon his guilt, he was sentenced to stay at the behavioral center, until Nikki was to get better, if she ever did. Truly valuing their friendship and believing in Branwell, Connor visited him every day, communicating by blinks. When their secret messages turned up results, it was up to Connor to find the pieces to put together to know what really happened on that Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Konigsburg did a superb job adding twists and suspense to the plot; my attention was always held, and my mind always reading between the lines, connecting me to the characters. Brace yourself for the surprise ending - I was shocked. The friendship and devotion in this book made it insanely hard to put down. From reading this book I learned the value of friendship and how hard work pays off in the long run. I love the way E.L. Konigsburg inserts humor and suspense into such a generic theme, making it a more exciting read. I would definitely read other books by her. This novel is relatively easy to follow along making it a good read for younger readers, although the lessons learned can apply to anyone. This book is now among my favorites, and I'd gladly recommend it to anyone in need of a good book. The bond between Branwell and Connor is strong; will Branwell ever speak their individual meaning of "the state of being a friend"?

First of all, I should state that it was not any of the sexual innuendo that bothered me. Judy Blume was writing about "Viagra moments" decades before this writer. Do we still have to be such Puritans nowadays? Given the extent the writer went to avoid objectionable language (even though any TV

watching kid hears the "b-word" word frequently) I don't think a single mention is going to damage young readers for life. Would you rather have your 10-year-old read an eloquent, well-written and thoughtful book by a Newbury-award winning writer or watch a sitcom loaded with sexual innuendo whose primary purpose is to score cheap laughs? The choice is yours. Anyway, what bugged me was that even though the friendship between these two boys was convincing, they still didn't come across quite as real-life kids. ELK's characters are not just smart, they're smarter than everybody else, including the adults around them. If you make your characters smarter than everyone, the reader will probably have less patience and sympathy when they fail to solve their problems. My feeling is, if they have that much brainpower, they are probably going to solve their problems eventually, and thus the tale loses a lot of its suspense. Finally, although this might come from too much "Law and Order" I was disappointed that (SPOILER) the family chose not to bring the nanny to trial. After all, their daughter almost wound up dead or brain damaged! How selfish of Branwell to forgo justice simply because he was embarrassed about his sexual attraction. I felt sorry for him, but given what his sister went through, I couldn't like him.

Good book. Happy ending. Loved it and was a good experience to read .Would like to read more books like this.

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