

**CAUSING FACTORS OF THE PROTAGONIST'S  
ATTITUDE CHANGE IN JENNIFER NIVEN'S  
NOVEL *ALL THE BRIGHT PLACES***

**A THESIS**

**BY**

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## APPENDIX

### A. Biography of the author

Jennifer Niven is an American author who has written several books across the genres of Young Adult, adult fiction, and nonfiction. Her novels *All The Bright Places* and *Holding Up the Universe* are *New York Times* and *international bestsellers*. Niven also wrote the screenplay adaptation for *All the Bright Places*, which is available on Netflix. Prior to writing, Niven was working on a series of historical novels. She has said that right after her seventh book, when she was wanting a break from writing due to burnout, she got the idea for *All the Bright Places*—it was much different than anything she'd written up to that point, as it was personal, it was, it was contemporary, and it was written from a boy's perspective. In addition to her books, Niven is the founder of Germ, an online magazine and community for high school readers and writers. Niven was born on May 14, 1968 in the United States. Niven grew up in Indiana as the daughter of a writer; it was her mother who instilled a love of writing in her from a young age. Her mother died suddenly in 2014 and Niven has talked openly about her loss, and how her mother is still her guiding force. This book is dedicated to her mother, her "*brightest place of all.*" Niven now lives in Los Angeles.

### B. Jennifer's literary works

- *All The Bright Places* (2015)
- *Holding Up the Universe* (2016)
- *Breathless* (2020)
- *Take Me With You When You Go* with David Levithan (2021)
- *Sem ar* (2021)



- Ada Blackjack: A True Story of Survival in the Arctic (2003)
- The Aqua Net Diaries: Big Hair, Big Dreams, Small Town (2010)

C. Summary of the novel

*All The Bright Places* tells the story of two friends who are trying to overcome their respective traumas. Violet Markey is still haunted by guilt after the tragic death of her sister, Eleanor. Nine months ago, the car that Eleanor and Violet were driving was traveling at high speed and crashed into the side of a bridge. From then on, Violet no longer had the courage to ride. Her guilt grew bigger because at the time of the incident, it was Violet who asked Eleanor to go that way. Similar to Violet, Theodore Finch (Justice Smith) also lives in the shadow of his trauma. He was depressed and often thought about ending his life. Finch feels increasingly isolated, because no one from his family understands his condition. Violet and Finch get to know each other when they are paired up for a school assignment. At that time, the students were asked to write essays about the most amazing places in Bartlett, Indiana. Finch also takes Violet to a number of places that seem strange and ordinary, but have a lot of beauty behind them. The more they meet and spend time together, the closer Violet and Finch become and understand each other.

D. Characters in the novel

1. Jordan Gripenwaldt is the editor of the newspaper at Violet and Finch's school. Though Violet doesn't know her well, she thinks that Jordan is the kind of girl she should be friends with—Jordan is smart, and sensible.
2. Ryan Cross is the most popular senior boy at Violet and Finch's school and. He was Violet's ex-boyfriend before the accident.

3. Amanda Monk is one of the popular girls at Violet and Finch's school. Before Violet's sister Eleanor died, she was one of Violet's best friends—but after this tragedy, Violet decided that she didn't have much in common with Amanda. Amanda, who's dating Roamer, seems like an antagonist for much of the novel. She and Roamer bully Finch incessantly, and Amanda also essentially tells Violet that she needs to get over Eleanor's death.

4. Brenda is one of Finch's best friends. She's overweight and wears her hair in bright colors. She's overprotective of Finch because she sees him as a "gentleman," and she's concerned throughout the novel that no boy is going to love her for who she actually is. At various points, Brenda kisses Roamer, whom she acknowledges is a jerk but whom she's loved for years anyway.

5. Josh Raymond is Rosemarie's eight-year-old son and Finch's dad's stepson (though Finch and Kate suspect that their dad may actually be Josh Raymond's biological father. He's a small boy with glasses and a squeaky voice.

6. Decca is Finch and Kate's eight-year-old sister. She's bluntly honest and emotional. Finch tries to do his best to check on Decca and make sure she's doing okay, since Finch's mom seldom does anything that Finch would call "parenting."

7. Kate is Finch and Decca's older sister; she's about 19 and has been out of school for almost a year. She didn't go away to college because, since their parents divorced, Kate felt like she needed to stay home to take care of her and Finch's mom. However, Kate isn't around much to actually care for her mom.

8. Finch's dad - Finch, Kate, and Decca's dad is a tall, burly, former hockey player from Canada. In the present, he's married to a woman named Rosemarie and lives with her and his stepson, Josh Raymond; he and Finch's mom divorced. Finch

explains that his dad suffers from “black moods” and would try to kill anyone who tried to diagnose him with a mental illness.

#### 9. Finch’s Mom

Finch, Kate, and Decca’s mom has been sad and disaffected since her divorce from Finch’s dad. She drinks wine whenever she’s at home and, in Finch’s opinion, seldom makes any effort to actively parent them. She also has had to work two jobs since the divorce; she works as a real estate agent and part-time at the local bookstore.

10. Violet’s dad is a teacher; he’s often in the living room wearing headphones and grading papers alongside his wife, Violet’s mom

#### 11. Violet’s Mom

Violet describes both her mom and Violet’s dad as perfect. Her mom is a writer and always encouraged Violet’s passion for writing—so it’s difficult for her mom to cope with the fact that since Violet’s sister Eleanor’s death, Violet hasn’t been willing or able to write. Violet’s mom mostly keeps her own grief.

12. Eleanor was Violet’s older sister who, at age 18, died in a car accident nine months. Violet and Eleanor were extremely close and ran the web magazine [EleanorandViolet.com](http://EleanorandViolet.com). After Eleanor’s death, though, Violet finds that she can’t write anything out of her grief for her sister.

13. Violet: Seventeen-year-old Violet is one of the novel’s protagonists and is Finch’s love interest. Violet and her older sister Eleanor were in a car crash that killed Eleanor, a tragedy that traumatized Violet as well as Violet’s mom and Violet’s dad. Violet and Eleanor were extremely close, Violet is overwhelmed with grief for her sister. She wears Eleanor’s glasses, changes her hair to look more like

Eleanor's, and can't bring herself to work on the website that she and Eleanor started, EleanorandViolet.com.

#### 14. Theodore Finch

Seventeen-year-old Finch is one of the novel's protagonists and is Violet's love interest. He lives with his mom and his sisters Kate and Decca. Finch is tall and handsome—but despite his good looks, other kids at school refer to him as “Theodore Freak.” This is because Finch has known anger issues, behaves erratically, and generally does what he wants—to most people, it's normal that Finch disappears for days or weeks at a time.