



**Contact:** Paul David Robinson  
 3511 Ready Road, South Rockwood, MI 48179  
 734-782-9604  
[pauldr@charter.net](mailto:pauldr@charter.net)  
[www.pauldavidrobinson.com](http://www.pauldavidrobinson.com)

## What happens on a Kentucky mountaintop when the best friend and buddy you ever had in your whole life turns out to be a girl instead of a boy like you?

In his book for teenage readers on up, the Reverend Paul David Robinson explores what happens on an isolated Kentucky mountain in the 1950s when two best friends discover there's more to one another than meets the eye.

Jimmy Bennett is an only child trapped by loneliness, poverty, and history when a family of seven moves in across the creek and he meets Curly Duncan, the youngest of five sons.

Jimmy and Curly, both teenagers, have the best summer of their lives fishing, hiking, and picking berries, and Curly becomes the best friend and brother Jimmy never had. They plan to ride double to school that fall on Jimmy's mule Brownie, and they even make plans for Curly to someday attend college with Jimmy.

Then the shoe drops, and Jimmy discovers that Curly is a girl. After some tense moments, Jimmy accepts the situation. At least this explains why Curly never goes skinny dipping with him!

Since Curly's father is abusive and her mother is too sick to intervene, Curly becomes the sister Jimmy never had. They remain best friends throughout high school, and when Jimmy goes to college, Curly eventually leaves her abusive and depressing home and becomes his roommate.

Although the two best friends are attracted to one another, they have deep-seated reasons to push those feelings aside, among them the fact that they have virtually no money and must work long hours to pay their bills and support themselves. Thus, they concentrate on their friendship, on their jobs, on Jimmy's teaching degrees, Curly's nursing degree, and on supporting one another.

Nonetheless, Curly's abusive father cannot believe they are "just friends," and eventually he forces the two best friends to marry in a shotgun wedding that leaves Jimmy and Curly with no choice but to confront their deeper feelings for one another.

Robinson comments, "This is a very entertaining and romantic and mysterious story. The brother you never had who becomes the sister you never had may actually be the lover you never had?"

**Author:** Paul David Robinson, BA, MDiv, has been writing stories and poems for sixty years and has a closet full of rejections. In 2013, he began to ePublish. He wrote *Summer* in 1998 but published it first because it was his mother's favorite and is dedicated to his wife, Carolyn, the love of his life. It is about love at first sight, pain, and suffering, the difficult choices people face, and how love can overcome anything. He wrote *My Shotgun Wedding* in 1962 for a magazine. It was rejected. Now it is retitled *Before My Shotgun Wedding* and is available for everyone to enjoy. The sequel, *After My Shotgun Wedding*, is for adult readers. He also has three other novels available for adult readers: *Foundling*, *Clarence or Claire*, *Katya and the Solar Wind*, and two sequels for Katya on the way. *When the Dew Fell on the Okra* is his first children's book to be published. It was written in December, 1966. When he graduated from Otterbein College in January, 1967, he gave it to people who had been a help to him. *First Eighty-five Poems* is his first volume of poetry. All of the poems were written between January 1, 1959, and August 1, 1963, when he was in junior high and in high school.

## Before My Shotgun Wedding

Paul David Robinson

### Category

Fiction  
 Coming of Age

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