



A Lie for a Lie

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A gripping YA mystery about seventeen-year-old Kendra, an amateur photographer who discovers her father is leading a double life.

Kendra Sullivan loves taking pictures. But when a photograph reveals that her father is leading a double life, she sets out to investigate the situation. Before long, Kendra discovers her father's second family, which he has hidden for years. Kendra's knowledge soon turns into power; she is torn between exposing her father and destroying her family as she's known it, or looking deeper for the truth and suffering that outcome. This emotionally charged mystery pushes the boundaries between truth and deception, and the consequences one faces when dealing with life-changing information.

A Lie for a Lie Details

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Author : Robin Merrow MacCready

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From Reader Review A Lie for a Lie for online ebook

Margaret Reynolds says

A Lie for a Lie does not disappoint. Within the first 2 paragraphs, the novel transported me back to high school, reminding me of the emotional dualism so common to that time in one's life... The feeling of freedom and of powerlessness, the intense want to be both independent and taken care of by one's parents, the excitement of a new crush and the pain that follows when things don't go as planned.

MacCready is a gifted writer. Her work is character-centered with a strong, exciting plot line. The main character is unique and believable, working through both current and past trauma in a real way. The author's writing normalizes feelings of anxiety and depression in teens, while focusing on a smart female main character who has to deal with multiple crises at a very young age.

Whether you're an adult or a teenager, you'll enjoy this book. A Lie for a Lie is a quick read with a gripping plot-- a true page turner.

Lucy says

I don't know about anyone else, but this entire book was absolutely fantastic!! It might be one of the best books I've read in a very long time.

The story line kept you on your feet and the character development was astounding. I finished this book only after a few days, but I wish I had made it last!

I highly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys good writing, fast-paced action, or vibrant characters.

Emma says

A Lie For A Lie was predictable. Was it good? Yes. Was it original? No, not really.

After reading the first page or so, I already knew what was going to happen in the book. Yes, the whole book, not just the main plot. I easily guessed what Kendra was going to discover, who she was going to end up with, and just about everything else.

That being said, the book was enjoyable to read. It was short and well paced, and I do happen to like most of the characters (all the ones I'm assuming readers are supposed to like). Kendra was an interesting multi-dimensional character that overcame a lot in the story, and in my opinion, really achieved her desired "break-out summer"... even if it is nothing like the summer she planned.

Each of the characters in A Lie For A Lie was unique, and each brought an interesting aspect to the story, even if I was able to guess their role from the moment they were introduced.

I would recommend this book for younger teen readers, who like a little bit of mystery and characters that overcome an obstacle that is holding them back. The book wasn't quite for me, but I do feel like it is a book many people would like.

Cherry (_forevermint) says

I read this book with an open mind but based on first impressions alone, I knew this one wasn't going to be a favorite. I thought the story opened really quickly and not enough backstory was given nor was there much of an introduction to the main characters, as a result I felt no attachment to ANY of the characters, in fact I disliked all of them. Besides being unlikeable, the characters were also one dimensional and shallow. In terms of plot, this one was really weak and tried to be surprising and have a twist, but it all fell flat for me. (view spoiler)

*I was sent this book for free, unsolicited from the publisher, this in no way affects my thoughts on the book.

Jessie (Ageless Pages Reviews) says

Unpolished, under-developed, blunt storytelling, and with one-dimensional (nonsensical) characters. Very superficial mystery, and very rushed in less than 210 pages!

RTC to come.

Melissa Goble says

This was such a unique and cute story I loved it.

Jacob McCabe says

I'm just going to be honest: I don't have a lot of thoughts for this book, other than I that I got nothing from it. Dry characters, boring plot, overly-condensed storyline...and the main character was so unbelievably naive and unlikable that I wanted to throw the book across the room multiple times. I hate being so negative, but I mean, wow. The only reason to read this book is because you could easily fly through it in one day (it's 200 pages, double spaced).

*This book was sent to me by Henry Holt for an honest review.

Makayla says

If I hadn't read this book, my life wouldn't be altered. This was book was boring, and I felt like the story was dragged on. There was little suspense; and the only time I felt a little suspense was when her dad caught her on film breaking into skippers house.

My favorite thing about this book, is the ending when her and Jilly bond. It's just something that I think is cute and it's helping Kendra get her life around.

Pmurray says

I read A Lie for a Lie in a weekend. The main character, Kendra Sullivan, pulled me into her story with the opening sentence. Who doesn't have a life-altering experience etched into their brains that they relive over and over again? Like Kendra, I wanted to understand her dad's deceit. Author, Robin McCready, artfully left clues throughout. Still, the ending was a surprise that had me thinking for days.

The coast of Maine setting added another rich layer to the story. I highly recommend this book to those who enjoy a fast paced mystery with distinctively flawed characters.

Monica says

Reading this book felt like an emotional battering ram. I know I was supposed to feel tense intrigue, but mostly I just felt like more plot and character development wouldn't be remiss.

Every character is incredibly flat. There was "the liar," "the cheater," "the overwrought artist," "the wronged party who also had a secret," "the psychologically damaged heroine who just needed answers." Cookie cutters should have come with these characters.

Which brings me to the culmination of events- or lack thereof. After the tedium of the so-called secrets and obsession of the MC, everything was forced, delivered at top speed, and then glossed over in a happy-ish ending.

The best part of this entire book was the length. Had it been any longer, this reader would have been much more inclined to a scathing review instead of the indifference it so richly deserves.

Nina says

A Lie For a Lie is certainly a plot-driven mystery—I wanted to figure out what was going on with Kendra's father, but after I finished, I realized the book is actually more about the characters—that good people can do not-so-good things when put in a bad situation. Everyone is multi-dimensional, even the ones who seem pretty straightforward get thrown a curve ball at the end—one character in particular surprised me (no spoilers here). My family has a cabin in Maine and the author does a great job of describing the coastal area.

A Lie For A Lie was a quick read and a subtle reminder that parents are human and make mistakes too.

Jodi Paloni says

Grappling with an anxiety disorder isn't easy, but Kendra Sullivan is learning to cope and summer promises to be filled with fun and adventure, friends and first love, when she stumbles on a mystery that calls into question everything she believed to be true about her mostly contented life on the coast of Maine. Camera in hand, she sets off to unearth family secrets and try to set things back to right. You'll find yourself rooting for this sensitive and plucky protagonist who finds the wherewithal to navigate the tumult of high pressure romance while having to grow up quickly to some of the harsher realities of life. Clear your night and put on your most comfy pjs. A Lie for a Lie will keep you reading straight through to the end.

Morgan Wessell says

The book, A Lie for A Lie, is both a heart breaking story and an emotional roller coaster. Kendra Sullivan, a seventeen year old girl, loves taking photos. She has been in love with photography ever since she was a little girl until she finds out her dad has been hiding something. As she starts to investigate, she learns to uncover more than she thinks she should. Along with the schemes her dad is pulling, she also has to deal with high school puppy love. Kendra has hard feelings for a guy named Will who goes to her school, but he already has a girlfriend. As you go through the story, you'll realize he isn't the guy she thought he was. Kendra goes through many obstacles and doesn't know what to do so she relies on those around her to help. This book is appropriate for teens our age because it shows what some of us go through whether it's in high school or our own families. I absolutely loved this book for many reasons. This book has an unexpected ending, along with many twists and turns. I recommend this book to anyone who loves solving mysteries and emotional endings.

Rissa says

3.75??

If you want a quick, mystery with twists and turns to finish in a day this is the book for you.

Lauren says

This was a fast read since it's only 200 pages but for an adult reader it was entirely predictable. I guessed a "huge reveal" so early in the story that it wasn't a shock at all when it happened. It's not the author's fault, but I felt somewhat misled by the summary on the cover that says "...when a photograph reveals something unexpected, she sets out to investigate the situation." This is somewhat true because the story revolves around her investigating an incident, but I thought this was going to be like the main character discovers something fishy going on in the background of a photo she took and wants to solve the mystery... but in reality she saw "the incident" happening in real life and took a picture of it for proof. Again, not the author's fault, but it somewhat misleads readers.

For library Readers' Advisory purposes: I don't recall much cursing and there was underage drinking in this story.
