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Seven Ways We Lie



Synopsis

In *Seven Ways We Lie*, a chance encounter tangles the lives of seven high school students, each resisting the allure of one of the seven deadly sins, and each telling their story from their seven distinct points of view. The juniors at Paloma High School all have their secrets, whether it's the thespian who hides her trust issues onstage, the closeted pansexual who only cares about his drug-dealing profits, or the neurotic genius who's planted the seed of a school scandal. But it's Juniper Kipling who has the furthest to fall. No one would argue that Juniper is obedient daughter, salutatorian, natural beauty, and loyal friend—is anything but perfect. Everyone knows she's a saint, not a sinner; but when love is involved, who is Juniper to resist temptation? When she begins to crave more and more of the one person she can't have, her charmed life starts to unravel. Then rumors of a student-teacher affair hit the fan. After Juniper accidentally exposes her secret at a party, her fate falls into the hands of the other six sinners, bringing them into one another's orbits. All seven are guilty of something. Together, they could save one another from their temptations—or be ruined by them. Riley Redgate's twisty YA debut effortlessly weaves humor, heartbreak, and redemption into a drama that fans of Jenny Han and Stephanie Perkins will adore.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Seven Ways We Lie is definitely a unique book. I flocked to it because I was interested in seeing the mystery behind the teacher-student affair unfold, but I found myself most taken with several of the

main characters and their own stories. There's seven POVs in this book, and they all have distinct voices and styles. Matt's chapters especially made me weak because it was like reading my own internal monologue. The characters are all interesting, but I realized at the point where five of the characters came together to be a part of a big secret that those five POVs would have been sufficient. I could have done very much without two of the POVs since their stories are easily told through the lens of the other characters. It frustrated me to have those unnecessary POVs because it took space away from really getting to know anyone. But I did manage to land some favorites.

Lucas especially stole my heart. He is the first pansexual character in a YA I have read who talks at length about his ID and is frustrated by how no one seems to accept his sexuality. People try to call him gay or bi, and he is tired of the erasure. I really wanted to reach in and hug him. The book also deals with how terrible it is to out someone without their consent; that's such an important lesson everyone needs to know. I really adored Olivia, too. She and her sister Kat are dealing with their mom abandoning them in their own ways. While Kat turns to video games (she plays Mass Effect in one scene and that made me so happy), Olivia turns to boys. There's some great moments where she calls out people who are trying to shame her for sleeping with guys. I did get a little frustrated with her about something in regards to the student-teacher relationship, but I won't go into details of it here. I ended up not caring at all about the student-teacher relationship, sadly. And that's all I can say about it without spoiling anything. Sexuality acceptance and consent are two major themes in this book, and I loved the way they were handled. One character reads aromantic/asexual (but it's not stated on the page, so I can't be sure), and it was so lovely to see them accepted by another character even after a really awkward moment. I'd give anything for a book about just

Lucas!***e-ARC provided by NetGalley***

Is it enough to say I loved this book? No? Okay. How about I give you a list of Seven Ways this book is awesome? 1. Seven voices, all distinct. 2. A diverse cast of characters, all flawed and lovable and very very real. 3. Dialogue that frequently made me guffaw. 4. A nuanced, thoughtful exploration of the relationships and desires of young people. 5. Tender moments that manage to not be gag-worthy. 6. Though there are so many points of view, I never felt muddled or like the novel was all over the place: instead I felt like I was immersed in the story and the circumstances as they unfolded. 7. It's not just a good story, it's good writing. The best kind of combo.

Oh mannnn. This book. I freaking loved the characters and the plot lines. I'm usually not into multiple POVs and this one had seven! Somehow Redgate managed to nail this. I was engaged and

eager to read the next chapter every time. I was incredibly busy during my read of this book so I couldn't read it as quickly as I usually read books, but it worked out. I never wanted to finish the book because it was so engaging. So, it was cool that it took me a while to get to finish. Highly recommend this book for teens and YA readers who love fast-paced books with diverse characters and serious/smart issues addressed along with some romance and edgy plot lines.

The fact that I have a clear vision (regarding appearance and personality) of all seven narrators in *Seven Ways We Lie* is a testament to Redgate's care when she crafted this novel. Every character is quirky and memorable in their own way. Through the eyes of seven high school students, *SWWL* explores the lies we tell to protect ourselves. I found myself particularly drawn to Valentine, a standoffish character who shined in the more difficult moments of this novel. Other standouts included Olivia, whose dialogue kept me laughing, and Matt, who had me rooting for his slacker self from the beginning. Though the novel carries heavy themes of loss, grief, depression, and struggles of sexuality, it also drips with humor and sarcasm. I think Redgate used care and respect to craft each facet of this novel. I was blown away! In a sea of contemporary novels, *SWWL* is a standout winner. I look forward to devouring more of Redgate's books in the future!

Admittedly, I am friends with the author. However, I bought this with my own money, and couldn't put it down until I had finished it- I read it so voraciously that it only took a day. Though I am not generally one for YA novels, I frequently recommend this to anyone who is looking for something new to read- not often do you find a book that goes through multiple perspectives and the writing actually changes when you're reading a new perspective. As a reader, this kept me on my toes, and made the experience of the story more complex. On the plot itself- I really, really don't want to say too much (the reveal is very elegant and I don't want it to be spoiled!) but I couldn't help but get completely caught up in the twists in turns of a story that goes eons beyond the realm of regular high school drama. Though set in a high school, these characters are fully developed, honestly portrayed, and live in an environment that is complex, honest, and at turns hilarious and agonizing. Obviously, I highly recommend giving "Seven Ways We Lie" a read!!!

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