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Seven Ways We Lie



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Synopsis

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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 8 UpÃ¢â ¬â •The lives of seven high school students intertwine around a scandalous secret in this debut effort. Each character deals with an issue related to one of the seven deadly sins: wrath, greed, sloth, pride, lust, envy, and gluttony. Olivia has one-night stands that keep her from feeling anything real, Matt's a burnout with no real ambition, Lucas hides a struggle with his sexuality behind a big smile and brand names, Claire's arsenal of extracurriculars cover up her feelings of never being good enough, Valentine refuses to get too close to anyone, and Kat's anger at her mother's abandonment causes her to lash out at everyone. Finally, Juniper, the perfectly popular girl, falls in love with someone she can never have. When, by chance, their lives converge around Juniper's indiscretion, they learn that in order to save themselves, they have to help one another. Most of the characters' personal struggles are individually compelling, and most readers will find at least one person with whom they can identify. As a whole, however, the plot feels a bit overstuffed and certain stories are better fleshed out than others, such as Olivia/Matt vs. Valentine/Claire. Still, Redgate is right on trend with the type of story that's popular with teens at the moment, and her book is sure to find a fan base. VERDICT An additional purchase for large teen collections.Ã¢â ¬â •Kimberly Castle-Alberts, Hudson Library & Historical Society, OH --This text

refers to the Hardcover edition.

". . . the characters are each distinctÃ¢â ¬â •Lucas' pansexuality and Valentine's asexuality are welcome explorations rarely seen in teen lit . . ." (Kirkus)"Most of the charactersÃ¢â ¬â„¢ personal struggles are individually compelling, and most readers will find at least one person with whom they can identify... Redgate is right on trend with the type of story thatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s popular with teens at the moment, and her book is sure to find a fan base." (School Library Journal)"Debut author Redgate neatly captures the heart, soul, and social intricacies of a high school in a conservative Kansas City suburb...Redgate writes with much insight into the complicated world of contemporary high school, revealing both its hard edges (the taunts of jocks toward an eccentric outcast, vicious rumor mills) and its tender underbelly (the loyalty of friends, the pain of a broken first love, the excitement of new romance). By book's end, readers will feel like they have seven new friends." (Publisher’s Weekly)Engaging and raw and real...a realistic contemporary YA delight. (Book Riot, "The Best Books of 2016...So Far") --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

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!!!

Writing multi POV is really hard. Writing seven of them in first person? Ack. But Redgate really pulls it off, in my opinion. There were subtleties to differentiate each voice and I was truly interested and invested in each character. I absolutely loved this book and the themes of forgiveness, acceptance, healing, truth, and friendship it dealt with. Plus, on the page pansexual rep and a character who was, though not explicitly stated, ace. I can’t wait to see what Redgate does next!

I normally read the author bio before the book, and will fully admit to reading Seven Ways We with an incredulous look on my face, because surely a concept this complicated, written by an author still in college (!) would have issues, right? (I'm terrible.) I'm glad that Ms. Redgate proved me wrong, because not only did I thoroughly enjoy Seven Ways We Lie, but found it to be a quick, engaging read for people like me, who enjoy non-romance heavy contemporary YA. I loved the concept, which is that each chapter is told by a different personification/character who represents one of the 7 "Deadly Sins." It easily could have been heavy handed, hammy, or cliche (I braced myself for a fat "Gluttony" character and was so relived when there wasn't one) but it wasn't any of those things. Instead, I naturally found myself caring for each of the seven characters, who came across authentic, even if at times keeping up with 7 POVs was a teeny bit hard. I definitely would recommend this to fans of YA, especially YA contemporary with a diverse cast. And I'm excited to see what Riley Redgate writes next.

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!

This is such a great read. Seven point of view characters is really a lot and I think this book could have worked with fewer even though I understood it was a reference to the idea of seven deadly sins. That said, I think Redgate actually managed to differentiate the voices really effectively and I can't think of a particular character whose narration I would have wanted to do without. I think it's more that I wanted to see all of them explored in more depth than possible. But regardless, a lovely book with sharp, incisive prose and a thoughtful look at the secrets we keep and the lies we tell, and what those things do to us and to others.

This book was honestly pretty good. I liked the characters and how they were very realistic to today's teenagers, and the entire story in general was honest and true about society. I think it taught the readers several valuable lessons. However, the writing was a bit different than what I usually read. It was more simple, and that really resembles how a highschooler would think; they wouldn't go into long, intricate monologues. Anyways, good book.

Riley Redgate is really able to tackle so much of adolescence and encapsulate it from all these different characters. Reading it felt very natural and true. She is not afraid of addressing dark, difficult, and largely untouched subjects but also seems to do it with care. the book never felt heavy-handed, as many YA books can come across. It certainly seems on the upper end of the YA age and maturity range but I would have loved it when I was in high school. I wish I'd had the book then!

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