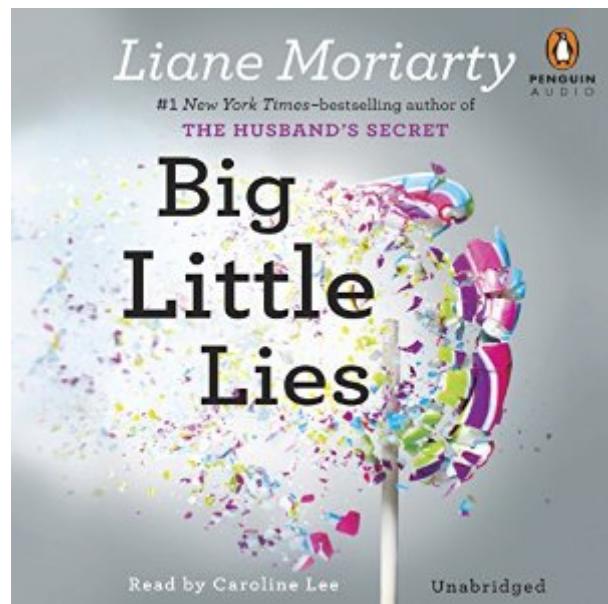


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Big Little Lies



Synopsis

Coming July 29, 2014, the new novel from Liane Moriarty, number-one New York Times best-selling author of *The Husband's Secret*. "What a wonderful writer - smart, wise, funny." (Anne Lamott) Pirriwee Public's annual school Trivia Night has ended in a shocking riot. One parent is dead. The school principal is horrified. As police investigate what appears to have been a tragic accident, signs begin to indicate that this devastating death might have been cold-blooded murder. In this thought-provoking novel, number-one New York Times best-selling author Liane Moriarty deftly explores the reality of parenting and playground politics, ex-husbands and ex-wives, and fractured families. And in her pitch-perfect way, she shows us the truth about what really goes on behind closed suburban doors.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Hypnotist's Love Story was good, the Husband's Secret was better, but Big Little Lies is the best. I was captivated from the first page, as I waited to figure out the mystery as to what was going to happen to these amazing characters on Trivia Night. The book is told by multiple voices, particularly Madeline, Celeste and Jane, each one had a distinct voice and a point of view that felt familiar, yet in this author's competent hands totally unique. Madeline Martha Mackenzie is a 40 year old throw-back to the screw ball comedies. She has the mouth, the wardrobe and her heart is in the right place when not suffering from her monthly PMS. She lives in the same town with her ex-husband, Nathan and his yoga chanting, euphorically perfect second wife, Bonnie. Nathan left

Madeline and their newborn infant 14 years ago, and while Madeline has re-married a wonderful man and has two children with him, it still hurts that their 14 year old daughter now wants to live with her ex and his wife. It would seem that Celeste has it all. She is a beautiful woman, married to a very wealthy man, Perry, and has two adorable twin boys attending Pirriwee Public School. What looks to be a perfect relationship to others, can become toxic when the couple is behind closed doors. This is a fact that is finally becoming glaringly clear, even to Celeste. Jane is a single mother raising her five year old boy, Ziggy, with the help of her mother and father, who live near by. She has just moved to the Pirriwee Peninsula, after taking leases in different apartments across Sydney, hoping to finally find a "life that worked". Once an outgoing career oriented 19 year old, she bears the scars of a disastrous sexual encounter.

At first, Big Little Lies gently engages the reader's interest only to suddenly evolve into a captivating story, holding the reader's attention until the end. Pirriwee Public is, in many ways, its own little world. The children are well cared for, their academic progress and creativity encouraged to flourish. The parents are mostly middle class, albeit across the income spectrum, and highly engaged in their children's lives--in fact, sometimes too engaged, hovering over their children and becoming involved in every perceived slight or risk. A young single mom, Jane, moves to town, enrolling her young son at Pirriwee Public, and gets off to a bad start when one of the influential mothers mistakes Jane for a nanny. However Madeline, one of the more irreverent and confident mothers, strikes up a friendship with Jane. Soon, Madeline introduces Jane around time, and Jane is even included in a friendship with Celeste, whose twin sons attend Pirriwee Public. When Jane's son is accused of bullying before school even formally begins, schisms and battle lines rapidly appear between the mothers that rule the school, the new mom and her friends, and other parents. The story raises questions about how involved parents should be in the school lives of their children, and the fine line between ensuring your child is safe and helping them become independent and able to face adversity. Big Little Lies unfolds from the perspective of each of the three primary characters, exploring their personal thoughts and lives as well as their child's school lives. Through a series of questions excerpted from police interviews and included in each chapter, the reader knows from almost the beginning that a tragedy has occurred to one of the parents.

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