



The Last Time I Lied

Riley Sager

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In the new novel from the bestselling author of *Final Girls*, *The Last Time I Lied* follows a young woman as she returns to her childhood summer camp to uncover the truth about a tragedy that happened there fifteen years ago.

Two Truths and a Lie. The girls played it all the time in their tiny cabin at Camp Nightingale. Vivian, Natalie, Allison, and first-time camper Emma Davis, the youngest of the group. The games ended when Emma sleepily watched the others sneak out of the cabin in the dead of night. The last she--or anyone--saw of them was Vivian closing the cabin door behind her, hushing Emma with a finger pressed to her lips.

Now a rising star in the New York art scene, Emma turns her past into paintings--massive canvases filled with dark leaves and gnarled branches that cover ghostly shapes in white dresses. The paintings catch the attention of Francesca Harris-White, the socialite and wealthy owner of Camp Nightingale. When Francesca implores her to return to the newly reopened camp as a painting instructor, Emma sees an opportunity to try to find out what really happened to her friends.

Yet it's immediately clear that all is not right at Camp Nightingale. Already haunted by memories from fifteen years ago, Emma discovers a security camera pointed directly at her cabin, mounting mistrust from Francesca and, most disturbing of all, cryptic clues Vivian left behind about the camp's twisted origins. As she digs deeper, Emma finds herself sorting through lies from the past while facing threats from both man and nature in the present. And the closer she gets to the truth about Camp Nightingale, the more she realizes it may come at a deadly price.

The Last Time I Lied Details

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From Reader Review *The Last Time I Lied* for online ebook

Mackenzie - Traveling Sister says

Riley Sager somehow surpasses the amazing hype surrounding his first novel, *Final Girls*, with an absolutely compulsively-good psychological thriller full of secrets, lies, and shocking truths that you won't be able to put down!

I have to say, I have read some outstanding books already in 2018, but this is by far the best psychological thriller for me this year! I was captivated by this book! I have a list of quotes and notes several pages long that I pulled while reading. Since I reached the shocking ending (seriously! What an ending!!!), I have been going back to those quotes and notes and finding even more clues and meaning in them.

We read this as a Traveling Sister read, and the discussion has been so engaging and wonderful. We each are finding clues that give us a new theory about aspects of the book. I wish I could share, but you should go in and experience this one as it is written! You will find your own path through the mysterious web of truth and lies, and I think this one will keep you guessing!!

About the Book

Emma Davis was 13 years old when she first attended Camp Nightingale—a summer sleepaway camp for the upper-class girls of the northeastern states. Emma is late—her mother didn't mention that she would be away all summer until the first day of camp—and so she is placed into a tiny cabin with popular senior campers Vivian, Natalie, and Allison. Emma immediately bonds with the beautiful, enigmatic Vivian. Vivian feels like the older sister Emma always wanted. The girls quickly engage Emma in their favorite game, two truths and a lie. The point of the game is to trick others into believing your lie. And then one night, Emma watches the girls sneak out of the cabin. By the next morning, they've disappeared for good, and Emma is left wondering if she could have stopped them.

Two truths...

At 28, Emma is a successful painter with a gallery full of her Forest series—paintings inspired by the forest at Camp Nightingale and her lingering questions around that summer. Not a day goes by that Emma doesn't think about the three missing girls, particularly Vivian. And then Franny, the wealthy owner of Camp Nightingale, approaches Emma with an offer—return to Camp Nightingale's grand re-opening. Emma thinks this may be her opportunity to finally process what happened to her friends and move on for good. But all is not as it seems once she arrives at Camp Nightingale.

And a lie...

But Emma has secrets she has never revealed to anyone. About that summer. About the girls. Emma may know more about what happened than she admits. Though Emma tries to live a life of truths, she can't seem to escape her lies that summer. And it seems that someone out there knows what Emma lied about, and is trying to make Emma pay. Can Emma find the truth before her lies catch up to her?

Reflection

I cannot put into words how wonderful this book is! It has layers upon layers of secrets, lies, and mystery

that I continue to peel back, even after finishing. Small moments that seemed innocuous at first reading take on so much meaning as I discovered more about the events at Camp Nightingale. The characters are all slightly unsettling in a good way. You're never totally sure that anyone is telling the full truth. But as Vivian says, lying is how you win the game.

One of my absolute favorite things about this book was the mysterious setting of Camp Nightingale. Sager uses the setting as a character in and of itself. He says at one point, "*Like most old structures, there's a heaviness to the Lodge, a somberness. I think of all the years it's witnessed. All those seasons and storms and secrets...*" The description of a place as having a memory; of knowing all of the secrets, and it creating a personality to the building that may not exist if things had been different. Emma reflects at one point that she was getting reacquainted with the lake, only to then state that actually, it felt like the lake was getting reacquainted with her. And then at other times several characters mention the forest as inviting them in, and the pull it has for those at the camp. The setting of the book completely came alive through Sager's wonderful writing. It became a force within the story that held the clues to the mystery, if only Emma could be brave enough to ask.

And finally, THAT ENDING! I can't say much more because I refuse to spoil even a second of this wonderful ending, but boy-oh-boy was I paging back and forward, processing what I just read. I can't wait for readers to discover this book for themselves! The entire book is a masterpiece, and one I already am planning to read again. And like all of the best books, I already know that each time I read it, I'll get a bit more out of it.

Thank you so much to Dutton, Penguin Books, and Riley Sager for an advanced copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Holly B says

Have you ever played Two Truths and A Lie?

It is a game the girls at Camp Nightingale played in their cabin. Emma Davis was the youngest girl in the cabin and a first time camper. Her three bunk mates sneak out one night leaving her alone. Something goes wrong and they never return. Who knew summer camp could be such a *dangerous place*.

This scenario brought back summer camp memories of sleeping in bunk beds and sitting around campfires telling ghost stories. Fun, right? Well, maybe not at this camp. The woods and algae laden lake were a perfect setting for this twisty thriller.

Fast forward fifteen years, and Emma is still haunted by her memories. She is invited back, but does she *dare*?

This thriller will have your imagination soaring and produce some anxiety as some *dirty little secrets* come out!

Traveling sister group read was very enjoyable!

Thanks to EW for my ARC. July 10, 2018 expected publication

Chelsea Humphrey says

This is how it begins.

I'll admit, I wasn't as intoxicated with *Final Girls* last year as the general public seemed to be, but I was in tune enough to realize that Riley Sager has some serious talent in his writing repertoire. His stories are darkly compulsive, and I've come to find that his growth in the psychological thriller field is enormous between his first book (good) and his second one (great). This is **EXACTLY** what I like to see in an author's pattern of book releases, and I honestly couldn't be more excited for where his next work takes us.

You see the fine grains of the pine plank wall, smell the traces of campfire smoke in your hair, and know exactly where you are. Camp Nightingale.

I would say the format of storytelling is similar to *Final Girls*, and both books are dark psychological thrillers, but the similarities end there. Where the previous novel was more of a slasher thriller with a YA vibe, this one was a more grown up, complex psychological thriller that was driven by the multiple mysteries at hand. While I can't put my finger on exactly what it is that I liked more about *The Last Time I Lied*, I think it had something to do with the timing of reading it, plus the fact that this one felt far less formulaic and engaged my brain power as a reader, rather than just expecting me to sit back and be entertained alone.

So much water. So much land. So many places to disappear.

It's tricky to go into details without spoiling any of the book, but it's definitely one that will grasp your attention from the prologue. The story is told alternating between flashbacks during Emma's first stay at Camp Nightingale and present day, which is 15 years in the future. What looks like a straightforward investigation into the disappearance of Emma's three friends from the past turns into a hell of a suspenseful romp into so many different directions that I had to re-read one of the reveal sections **FOUR TIMES** before I could move forward because- *Sager fooled me!* As an avid suspense aficionado, it's a feeling that I don't get often these days and cherish when the opportunity comes along.

You think of all these things and begin to scream.

I'm still torn on how I feel about a few aspects of the ending, but overall I was very pleased with each facet of this one. It was entertaining, engaging, and had that "unputdownable" factor we have all come to crave from our latest read. If you've been eagerly anticipating this one as much as I have over the past year, I hope you're as satisfied with the pay off as I was. At a time that I've been almost ready to give up on psychological thrillers, I am so thrilled to have consumed this one and for it redeeming the genre in my eyes and persuading me to ride the suspense train a little bit longer.

** I received a review copy from the publisher.*

(Bern) Mom to 2 Posh Lil Divas says

????? *5 Stars for Riley Sager's campy summer mystery - The Last Time I Lied ?*

I was uneasy the entire time I read this book. Part of that was my own excited expectations/anticipation of

the book but the other part was Sager's writing. **He knows how to create an elusive mood that leaves you full of dread, yet wanting more.** You're reading, turning page after page, just waiting for "that something" to happen. You know it's coming. You're creeped out and suspicious of everyone. You can't put the book down because you simply have to know where it's all going. That's my reading experience with this book in a nutshell and I loved every minute of it.

Sager masterfully spun a tale that is told in two different times - the present & past (told via flashback from 15 years ago). It all began at Camp Nightingale 15 years prior when three girls disappear from Dogwood cabin. Emma, the youngest of the four girls rooming in the cabin was the only one left. She is deeply affected by the disappearance of her friends and is haunted by the girls throughout her life. Emma is unable to come to terms with the terrible tragedy because they never fully learned what happened to the girls that fateful summer night.

Flash forward 15 years and Camp Nightingale is once again opening its doors to campers. Emma has been invited to teach art at the camp for the summer and of course she accepts. It's her chance to finally solve the mystery and hopefully put the events of that summer behind her.

Emma is a wonderfully sympathetic yet unreliable narrator. Can her memories be trusted when she herself admits to having had a nervous breakdown in the months after her first camp experience? There were so many secrets that it was nearly impossible to figure out what was true and what wasn't. There were so many well crafted layers to this mystery! I literally suspected everyone, trusted no one & still had it all wrong in the end. I LOVE when I don't see "it" coming. It was all there, the crumbs had been woven into the story but with Emma being such an unreliable narrator you simply don't know what to think or who to believe.

The book had me riveted from beginning to end. I too was on a search for the truth with Emma amidst all the secrets, lies & guilt. I definitely recommend this read to fellow mystery fans and hope it will keep you second guessing just as it did me!

The Last Time I Lied has even been picked up by Amazon Studios to be adapted into a limited series!!!

Yay, I can't wait!!!! You can read all about it here if you'd like -->

<https://www.amazonbookreview.com/post...>

Thank you to NetGalley, Dutton, Penguin Books, and Riley Sager for an advanced copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Meredith says

"Sometimes a lie is more than just a lie. Sometimes it's the only way to win."

Picture this: Sleepaway camp. 4 girls share a cabin until the day 3 disappear never to be found. One 13-year-old girl is left to tell their story. But her stories are built around lies.

15 years later, the same girl returns to the camp to teach art and assist the owner's new charitable endeavor. She is assigned to the same cabin that the girls disappeared from. Once again, 3 girls go missing. Something is amiss at Camp Nightingale.

The Last Time I Lied is a tension-packed, atmospheric thriller! Sager brings Camp Nightingale to life: from the eerie camp grounds, to the mysterious lake, to the campfire smoke, to the angst of the teenage campers, I was transported. **This element of the novel felt so real and made this book for me!**

While things start off a little slow, I was interested enough in the mystery to keep on reading. Bits and pieces are gradually revealed, dark twists and turns occur, culminating in an over-the-top ending. While this element would normally have taken me out of a book, in this instance, it had me smiling (in a good way)!

Overall, *The Last Time I Lied* was a fun, suspenseful read that left me wanting more!

I received a copy of this book from Edelweiss+ and Dutton, Penguin Books in exchange for an honest review.

Melisa says

BREAKING NEWS!: *The Last Time I Lied* has been picked up by Amazon Studios to be developed into a series. <https://www.amazonbookreview.com/post...>

Two truths and a lie:

- 1. This book rocked.**
- 2. Riley Sager is a thriller writing phenom.**
- 3. I hate reading.**

Pretty sure you've got me figured out.

Disclaimer : I get really really ridiculously excited about good thrillers now and tend to use an excess of exclamation points, so this is just a preemptive "please excuse my flabbergabbling."

This is a true thriller in the sense of the word - it's thrilling with understated suspense and it will creep you out in the best way possible.

So compulsively readable and intriguing, I could not put this one down until I knew how it ended. Oh the twists and the turns and the theories that I had, that were all wrong by the way! It's also super cinematic - I could totally see this one being turned into a film.

Riley Sager has weaved an intoxicating tale of girls gone missing at a sleep away camp. There is a huge cast of characters, none of which you will trust, and a highly unreliable narrator.

I loved how every flashback chapter was an answer to the question the previous chapter put forward. Everything was connected. You had all the pieces but no answers and had to figure it all out with the main character.

The best kind of stories are the ones that can scare you silly without any violence. And that is exactly what you will find here.

There is one teensy tiny detail of the conclusion that I have a question about and I need to discuss further. Riley Sager, shoot me an email so we can discuss!

4.5 super creepy stars!

Thank you to Dutton Books for my review copy! This was a buddy read with the Traveling Sisters - Berit, Brenda, Holly B, Mackenzie and Marialyce. Loved that you were all as equally enthusiastic about this one as I was!

Brenda - Traveling Sister says

Creepy good, Creepy spooky, Creepy wow!

Norma and I were lost in a coulee reading *The Last time I Lied* with eight of our Traveling Sisters. We all ended up in the same coulee wiping the sweat off our foreheads after that fast-paced story left us sprinting right to that shocking good ending. After a nice cool drink to cool us down we shared our thoughts on that ending and there was a lot to talk about.

The Last Time I Lied had all the elements to make this a spooky, creepy good read. We all loved the camp setting, eerie lake, game of truth and lies and the mystery of three girls that go missing in the night.

We loved the atmosphere of the camp setting and Riley Sager does a great job setting the feel with the descriptive writing making the camp setting come alive in our heads. At times it felt like a movie playing out in our minds.

Riley Sager does a good job layering those secrets and lies and creating those twists and turns at just the right time. He took us down a path a twisty path, leaving those clues along the way that some of us pick up on. In the end, the story skillfully comes together leaving us sharing our excitement over this one with each other. Every time someone finished the excitement started all over it again. Almost like a party in a coulee. We highly recommend.

Thank you so much to Edelweiss, Dutton Publishing, and Riley Sager for the opportunity to read and review an advanced copy of this book

This is Traveling Sisters GR Reading Group Review and it can be found posted on our themed book blog *Two Sisters Lost In A Coulee Reading*.

<https://twosisterslostinacoulee.com>

Coulee: a term applied rather loosely to different landforms, all of which refer to a kind of valley. Coulee references are symbolic to our reading experience

Norma * Traveling Sister says

Holy Shooty Balls this was a good one! ? I absolutely LOVED this book!

THE LAST TIME I LIED by RILEY SAGER was an absolutely fantastic, compulsive, thrilling, and tension filled psychological thriller that had me totally engaged and racing through those pages as fast as I could to see how this story was going to end. I was totally blown away with that absolutely shocking and surprise ending! I did another whoop at books end.

RILEY SAGER delivers an extremely detailed, twisty, atmospheric and well-written story here. I absolutely love his writing style and the way that he set the mood was pretty much perfect for a creepy and thrilling reading experience for me. I had that uneasy and apprehensive feeling throughout most of this novel which I am always seeking from my thrillers. This one definitely delivered!

This novel was so gripping and intriguing and in my opinion had the perfect setting. The creepy woods, cabin, and the eerie lake with the camp setting was so good. The camp setting had me reminiscing about my summer camp memories when I was younger. I couldn't help thinking Nancy Drew or The Hardy Boys while I was reading this one too. Also, another fun aspect of this novel was the game "two truths and a lie" that the girls played at Camp Nightingale in their cabin. I'm not going to lie - I absolutely loved this book! Would highly recommend!

Expected Publishing Date: July 10, 2018

Thank you so much to Edelweiss, Dutton Publishing, and Riley Sager for the opportunity to read an advanced copy of this book.

Review written and posted on our themed book blog Two Sisters Lost In A Coulee Reading.
<https://twosisterslostinacoulee.com>

Coulee: a term applied rather loosely to different landforms, all of which refer to a kind of valley.

Rose (Traveling Sister) says

5 billion stars over Lake Midnight. We've got a winner here, folks, and I'm the first to snatch it from my library! *#Blessed*. I've poured myself a fat glass of Cabernet just to get over the chilliest of chills upon finishing *The Last Time I Lied*.

"You're too young for this, Em."

Emma Davis stayed at Camp Nightingale 15 summers ago, when three of her friends disappeared without a trace. The camp has been shut down ever since, but now, its owner has decided to give it one more shot. Emma is poised to return as an instructor, but is she ready? Memories, lies, and the girls themselves have haunted her ever since. She paints them. She dreams them. She even sees them in her day-to-day...

"I don't think about it. I obsess."

...which makes her a *drum-roll please* UNRELIABLE NARRATOR! Often, thriller writers hinge too much on flawed MCs to drive interest, and it gets in the way of other critical details like setting, mood, and dialogue. The great thing about Riley Sager is that he doesn't assume any one thing is enough to carry his books. He doesn't just want you to flip the pages; he wants you to immerse yourself. As I did in my last review, I'll open to a random page and find something pertinent. 104 this time.

"It turns out to be a fox slinking toward the forest. Something is in its mouth - an unknown creature, now dead. All I can make out is blood-slicked fur. The fox pauses in the flashlight's glare, its body coiled, eyes glowing greenish white..."

This is just one of hundreds of examples of suspense-building moments in this book. The key? It plays to all the senses: touch, sight, the taste and smell of death, and the almost unnatural silence of nature. I think that's why *The Last Time I Lied* was such a slam-dunk: it gripped in every possible way and did not let go. Sager does a spectacular job of ensuring that you don't just want to see how it ends; you'll have a fulfilling experience the whole way there.

Plot-wise, this might be the most surprised I've ever been upon finishing a suspense novel. There were red herrings, of course, but not so many that I got annoyed. I'm normally not a fan of even *the mere suggestion* of a ghost story, and I get weary of the suspicious rich guy trope, but this was a phenomenal exception. The ends were almost perfectly tied up, and I got an actual gut punch in the last few pages, when the final twist is revealed. I'd suggest this for anyone who's found themselves in a rut with dime-a-dozen thrillers lately or who avoids them altogether.

"No girls appear, alive or dead. There's no trace of them. It's as if they had never existed at all. Like they were a figment of the camp's imagination. A mass hallucination."

Kinda makes you want to go back to summer camp, *amirite*?

Berit??? says

6 Strikingly Stupendous Stars ??????

Yes six, seis, sexe,sechs,sei.... and I'm sure whatever language you choose to read this book in the result will be the same... it was just that fabulous!

Two truths and a lie...

1 I never gush over books!

2 this was the best book I've read so far this year!!!

3 Riley Sager is being added to my list of authors who I will autobuy/request.

I'm sure you figured it out... I am the queen of gushing! And this is a book that makes me want to shout from the rooftops! From first page to last this book had me captivated... this is going to sound odd but I felt as though I was in a forest of browns and greens every time I pick this book up.... it was so atmospheric and descriptive that I felt as though I was there at camp with these girls... The forest, the lake, the tension was all drawn so well by Sager... I could smell the trees, feel the water, and I was on the edge of my seat throughout this entire book!

Emma is a "final girl" how appropriate is that? when she was at camp 15 years ago she was the only girl from her cabin to not disappear ... my only complaint of Sager's previous book was I would have liked the psychology of these "final girls" to have been explored more in depth , so... what a treat this book was! Emma now a well respected artist paints these girls in all her paintings... she sees Vivian everywhere... and she cannot let go of the fact that she had something to do with their disappearance... that is all I am saying about the plot, I do not want to ruin this gem of a book for you...

I am just so jealous of all of you who have not read this yet, what a treat you have in front of you! A campy book that will grab onto you and will not let go... a book filled with twists, Twists, and more twists, and just

when you think you've got it all figured out..... an ending you will not see coming!

Emphatically recommend this book, especially if you are a fan of the psychological thriller genre! If you liked "Final Girls" you will love "The Last Time I Lied" and that is no lie!

*** many thanks to Penguin Dutton for my copy of this book ***

megs_bookrack says

Riley Sager has done it again!! Thrilling from beginning to end. This one kept me guessing until the final pages!

When Emma Davis first went to Camp Nightingale she was late; her parents doing. Subsequently, she got stuck in a cabin with girls much older than herself. Luckily, the pretty and popular bunkmate, Vivian, quickly took Emma under her wing and she began to have a camp experience unlike anything the other girls her age were experiencing. Unfortunately, one night, on the 4th of July, her three cabinmates disappear, never to be seen again. That night continues to haunt Emma, even fifteen years later when we meet her. Now a successful painter living in NYC she continues to meld the haunting images of her camp experience into her work. Invited back to Camp Nightingale by the wealthy owner, Franny Harris-White, to be an art instructor, Emma begrudgingly accepts, thinking she can finally figure out what happened to her friends.

Once Emma returns to Camp she is reunited with many individuals who were also there her first time round; including the handsome Theo Harris-White, Emma's crush from THAT summer. This story is darkly atmospheric and filled with mystery and dread. For me, Sager's writing is so cinematic - as I am reading, the entire drama is unfolding in my mind with the perfect clarity of a movie - I felt the same way with Final Girls. His descriptions and feelings are so easy to follow and imagine and are definitely one of my favorite things about his writing.

As the story unfolds, there are multiple occasions where you think you know what happened all those years ago, but those thoughts are quickly dashed away by new information becoming available. The cast of characters was fantastic and past and present unfolded with such ease and excitement that it made this novel very fast-paced! I have absolutely nothing negative to say about this book - I loved it - would read it again and would recommend to any thriller or horror reader. I cannot wait to see what Sager comes up with next! You better believe I will be waiting for it and buying it on release.

Thank you so much to the publisher, Dutton Press, for providing me with a copy of this book to read and review. It was a highlight of my year for sure and I greatly appreciate the opportunity!

Original: Squeals with delight when arc is received - one of my most anticipated books of the year!

Mary Beth *Traveling Sister* says

Five Solid Shiny Stars

Emma Davis goes away to summer camp at Camp Nightingale. She shares a cabin with three other girls, Vivian, Natalie, and Alison. She learns how to play a game, Two Truths And A Lie. They play it All the time. All three girls disappear without a trace in the woods at night time.

Fifteen years later the camp reopens and Emma returns as a painting instructor and finds an opportunity to try to find out what really happened to her friends, that has haunted her. Emma is assigned to the same cabin she slept in as a teenager. She finds a security camera pointing directly at her cabin. She also finds the word liar in red paint on the front door. The closer she gets to the truth about Camp Nightingale, the more she realizes it may come at a deadly price.

This book was a big surprise. Now I want to read Final Girls. This was a creepy spooky read. This book goes back and forth from the past and present. It goes back 15 years ago, when Emma was a teenager to the present. This is my favorite psychological thriller for this year.

This book was done so well. It was a little dark but it wasn't graphic. It is a thriller with a little bit of horror. It is a phenomenal mystery. There are lots of twists and turns that will keep you on the edge of your seat. It kept me guessing and guessing, and the ending just shocked me. I hooked straight from the beginning to the very end. The characters were done so well and I loved the writing style. I highly recommend it.

This was a Traveling Sister read and it was a great discussion which made this a great reading experience.

I want to thank Edelweiss, Dutton, and Riley Sager for the copy of this book in exchange for a honest review.

Carol (Bookaria) says

What a book! What a story! I loved it!

This is the second book I've read from author Riley Sager and he delivered again. His previous book, Final Girls, was also an excellent thriller and I recommend you read it if you haven't done so yet.

On this novel, we follow Emma Davis who fifteen years earlier had attended Camp Nightingale as a teenager and shared a cabin with other three girls who disappeared and were never found. She is now a painter but her life is disrupted when the owner of the camp invites her to return to Camp Nightingale as an instructor. Emma decides to go back and find out what happened to her friends fifteen years ago.

This novel was excellent, it has elements of mystery, thriller, and well-developed characters. I was completely captivated by the story, the author did an excellent job with the imagery and is a masterful storyteller. Camp Nightingale, Dogwood, Lake Midnight and its visitors will stay with me for a long time.

The novel alternates between the present and the past and is narrated from Emma's point of view. I absolutely **LOVED it** and recommend it to readers of contemporary fiction, thrillers, and mysteries.

I received an ARC from the publisher via Edelweiss Plus

** I read this book with the Traveling Sisters. Our discussions made my experience more enriching and interesting**

j e w e l s [Books Bejeweled] says

FIVE STARS

I'm trying my best to contain my excitement and review Riley Sager's new book in a professional manner.

YIPPEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!

See that? I only used one exclamation point. I want at least 300 more! It is a spanking good, cracker jack of a novel that I could not stop reading for two days.

THE LAST TIME I LIED is a brilliant and campy (*pun intended*) mystery for all you grown up fans of Nancy Drew or the Hardy Boys.

It will be the 2018 summer-beach-novel-must-read! This is a nostalgic and twisted look back at your own summer camp memories. It's terrific fun!

I'm crazy about Sager's deceptively easy writing style. He breezes right through the telling of the story, all the while creating mood, atmosphere and the fun kind of dread you get in the pit of your stomach while watching a horror flick. The pages suck you in and Sager holds your hand as he walks you through the creepy story that began 15 years ago at Camp Nightingale.

Three out of four girls disappeared from the Dogwood cabin and that fourth girl? She suffered a nervous breakdown in the months following the disappearance of her friends. In a way, she is the **SOLE SURVIVOR**, and if you loved *Final Girls* you know what that means. Yes, Emma is a Final Girl and she is a sympathetic and very unreliable narrator. Emma has a chance to return to the camp fifteen years later, and of course, in Riley Sager's world, she goes back to teach art at the camp. Oh, and to solve the old mystery while confronting her many demons.

Please don't bother to read the overly long and convoluted book jacket synopsis. It almost scared me away. So many names that are meaningless until you read the story. If you liked **FINAL GIRLS**, you will love **THE LAST TIME I LIED**. It is also delicious reading for fans of *The Chalk Man* or *Good Me, Bad Me*.

THE LAST TIME I LIED is not going to be published until July 2018, I'm sorry to say. However---it is soooooo worth the wait! It's a completely different story from FINAL GIRLS, but the same brilliant author supervising the fun.

Many thanks to Dutton Publishers and Edelweiss for giving me the opportunity to read and review this book. All opinions are my own.

Debra says

4.5 stars

While reading my second book by Sager, I can't help but think that he is an 80's horror movie fan or at least grew up in the 80's watching these flicks. His other book, "Final Girls" read like an 80's horror film to me (which I loved!) and while reading *The Last Time I Lied*, I felt as if I was at Camp Crystal Lake....oops...I meant at Camp Nightingale. And no, there is no killer in a hockey mask chasing camp counselors through the woods here, but it does have a camp in the middle of the woods, where campers tell each other rumors about the camp's dark history. Is there any truth to these rumors or are the girls just trying to scare each other?

When Emma was thirteen years old her parents sent her to "camp rich bitch" a.k.a. Camp Nightingale. Since she arrived late, she is placed in a cabin called Dogwood with three older teens: Vivian, Allison, and Natalie. One-night Emma wakes to see the trio sneaking out and is told she is too young to go with them. The three teens are never seen again.

Fifteen years later, Emma is an artist who cannot stop drawing the images of the missing girls in her artwork. She is still haunted by that summer and the events which led up to the disappearance of the missing teens. When the camp owner, Francesca Harris-White, invites her to return to the camp for its re-opening, Emma is torn but eventually agrees to teach art lessons at the camp. Emma hopes this will help her move on and come to terms with the events of that summer and the disappearance of her bunk mates.

From the start, things don't seem to be going according to plan. Emma is back in the cabin she shared with the missing girls fifteen years ago. This is only the beginning. Searching for the truth, she stumbles upon some clues left behind by one of the girls. Someone must not have warned her to "be careful what you wish/look for" What happens when what you've been searching for, comes looking for you? Will finding the truth set her free or make things worse? Can you ever go back again? YES, she does go back ...but you know what I mean.

A lot of characters have secrets in this book - I loved this! The cabin mates loved to play "two truths and a lie". I felt as if I were playing that game right along with them, trying to decipher what was real, what was a lie, who is lying (if anyone), who is being deceptive, who is reliable, etc. This was a fun and creepy (yes things can be fun and creepy at the same time!) jaunt through the woods! Ahhh, I could hear the twigs breaking underfoot, see the ripples in the lake and hear the birds chirping. What I couldn't do was find those missing "mean girls." I dare you..no wait..I triple dog dare you to try and figure this book out! If you do, then you are a better super sleuth than I am! I pinkie promise you that this book delivers on a few twist and turns.

There are a lot of characters in this book, but I never found this to be confusing. I found it easy to keep track of everyone. Some of the characters are likable, some not so much, some are mean, some seem too syrupy sweet, some will seem deceptive and some you may not trust. I love how he drew them to stir the plot and keep the reader guessing.

At first this book did seem a little slow to me, mainly because I wanted to be instantly grabbed by this book as I was *Final Girls*. But I found as I kept reading, I became hooked. Going back and forth in time, looking for clues, I was invested in learning what happened. I felt for characters and was suspicious of them, and then a character would do something or say something and then I suspected them. Thus, I was intrigued and HAD to know whodunit! The woods, cabin and lake were the perfect back drop for this riveting book about missing girls, the search for the truth, the pains of growing up, and the guilt of lies.

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