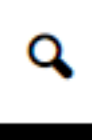


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Cultural Books

'Lie With Me' by Sabine Durrant: Book Review

By Rachel Casey - Jul 24, 2016

There's nothing wrong with telling a little white lie, is there? Even two little white lies. Paul Morris doesn't think so. But when the small lies start to accumulate he realises they're getting him into more trouble than they're worth.

After bumping into an old college friend, and being invited to a dinner party, Paul meets Alice, a widow whom he finds somewhat attractive. To impress her, he must keep up the lies he has told all night. That he is a professional writer rather than a has-been with one minor success twenty years ago. That he owns a fancy apartment rather than house sits for a friend. And most of all, that he is a caring and genuine guy who's not just interested in sex.

After seeing Alice a few times, he starts to find that he wants to impress her more and more. He convinces himself that it's because he cares for her and not just because he wants to show up his old college friend, Andrew. He manages to wangle an invitation to their annual holiday in Greece and feels like it's the perfect time to get to know Alice more.

But ten years before, a girl went missing in the part of Greece they go to. Alice has been obsessed with finding her, and since their house is being demolished soon, this is the last year they will be able to look for her. Paul must try to keep up with all the lies he has told as the investigation goes on around him and he starts to wonder if he is the only one who has been lying.

It's rare that a book described as being on a par to 'Gone Girl' actually lives up to the hype, but Sabine Durrant's 'Lie With Me' definitely does. With the perfect amount of suspense, tension and uncertainty, it's got everything a good thriller needs. It's also got a heaping helpful of characters that you're not going to like.

Paul Morris, the narrator, is one of these characters. He's selfish, arrogant, manipulative and only ever out for himself. He's misogynistic and treats women with as little respect as he possibly can. But what Durrant manages to do, despite all of this, is make you root for him. There's something niggling in your subconscious that's telling you the situation he's in isn't right. And knowing he can't see it himself adds to the tension that Durrant builds so superbly.

There's a very claustrophobic and unsettling atmosphere to 'Lie With Me'. You're never sure who or what you should be suspicious of, but there is a constant sense of wariness through the whole story. A lot of hints are dropped along the way but you never know where the story is going, so it's hard to know that they're hints.

It's difficult to say a lot about this book without giving too much away. It's a story that's fairly uneventful until the very end. But all the tiny things that have been happening throughout come together to form an interesting ending. Not a particularly happy ending, but it's definitely the right ending and you won't be disappointed. 'Lie With Me' is undeniably a thrilling read that will have you itching to read another of Durrant's books.





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REVIEW OVERVIEW

'Lie With Me' by Sabine Durrant	★★★★☆
SUMMARY	4.5
	★★★★☆ OVERALL SCORE

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