

Deadly Little Scandals

Jennifer Lynn Barnes

Reviewed by: Emily Gantz, 15

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be The Star You Are! Charity

www.bethestaryouare.org

You know that saying, the one that goes “sequels are never better than the original”? Well, with this novel you can take that saying and throw it out the window, because if you thought the original was good, just wait until you read this. *Deadly Little Scandals* is a novel that, like the original, focuses on a girl named Sawyer Taft. Now armed with the knowledge and means to get around the world that she has lived in for about a year now, and knowing the identity of her father, Sawyer is ready to unravel a new mystery: Who is the other baby from the pregnancy pact that her mom made all those years ago; who is Ana’s baby? This is a crucial question for Sawyer to know the answer to for one main reason: she wants to have someone who knows what it’s like to be her. Through her journey to find answers, Sawyer finds that the world she has gotten used to is shrouded in secrets and the more she uncovers, the more it crumbles. Though her world is falling apart, Sawyer must stay strong and be there for the ones that she cares about who are suffering the consequences of the unleashed secrets. Will Sawyer find out the identity of Ana’s baby? Or will the weight of all these newfound secrets finally find a way to break the girl who won’t stop until she finds the answers she’s looking for?

Similar to the first novel in this amazing series, *Deadly Little Scandals* would have to be one of my favorite books that I have ever read. My reasoning behind this statement matches what I have stated about *Little White Lies* (the original book), the main one being the sheer detail that this book has to offer. My previous statement leaves little to elaborate on, however, I must stress that this novel is brought to life through the simple and specific elements that the author chooses to use, and that is one of the many reasons I deeply enjoyed this read. Another ground for my earlier assertion would have to be the plot twists that this novel thrusts upon the reader. Personally, I love a good mystery, and this book leaves little to be desired with all of its surprises. To conclude the point I am trying to make, one of the final reasons for why I liked this book is the fact that once you have finished the novel, you can go back to certain chapters and see the subtle hints that the author left for the reader to find. These hints all point out the ending of the novel, and while it can be annoying to realize that you missed something seemingly obvious now, it just goes to show the dedication Jennifer Barnes has to making a worthwhile enigma.

While above I have listed my praise for this novel, I must also add what I didn’t enjoy about it. There is really not much to say for things that I didn’t like, but there are a few things that I can point out that I personally wasn’t a fan of. One of these things would have to be the fact that the vast amount of intertwining secrets can cause slight confusion, especially when it comes to who is related to who. One other issue I had was similar to the one before; I had trouble in general simply remembering who was who. Now, of course this could have been just me, but I

felt that there were so many side characters, to a point where it was hard to keep track of who was related to who. Other than those few hiccups though, I felt that this novel was quite entertaining, and would recommend it to anyone 13 or above who likes a good thriller/mystery. This novel works well as just a simple gift to the bookworm of the family, or if someone is looking to try something new, it can be found at most local libraries.

Recommended Novels:

Little White Lies

The Fixer

The Inheritance Games