

## **Two Truths and a Lie: Histories and Mysteries**

**Ammi-Joan Paquette & Laurie Ann Thompson**

**Reviewed by: Daniel Gliksberg, 16**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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The premise of *Two Truths and a Lie: Histories and Mysteries* is explained well right on the cover: “Unbelievable TRUTHS about outrageous people, places, and events – with a few outright LIES hiding among them. Can you tell the fakes from the facts?” the tales include everything from Santa being tracked by NORAD (the North American Aerospace Defense Command) to a church that looks like a massive bird. Each chapter has three stories, and one of the three is a lie made up by the authors. The book actively encourages doing research to determine which story is false, and even includes its own research guide for those who do not know where to begin.

The lies that the authors came up with are surprisingly convincing, based on actual events, places, or people with one or two important details skewed or even just made up. It is usually difficult to make out the lie from the book alone, and this further encourages the reader to do some actual research to determine the answer for themselves. It is not just the stories that are captivating, either. The book is filled cover-to-cover with interesting pictures, illustrations, and historical photographs. Each chapter also has a small, interactive quiz, where the reader picks out the made-up response out of a list of 10 possibilities. It is worth mentioning that this book is one of a series, if a reader is particularly interested in reading more. The book also has an answer guide for each chapter (both for the stories themselves and the small quizzes), and includes the definitions for any irregular words next to the text whenever it needs to use them.

The cover and pages of the book are always bright and colorful, adding to the book’s appeal for younger audiences. The book is very up-beat and lighthearted, and would be an excellent pick for young readers. It would be a great book to get from a library, and would make a nice gift. I would recommend *Two Truths and a Lie: Histories and Mysteries* to readers aged 9 or older. The goal of the book is best summarized by the book itself: “To readers everywhere: stay curious ... and skeptical.”

### **Recommended titles:**

Two Truths and a Lie: It's Alive!, Ammi-Joan Paquette & Laurie Ann Thompson

Two Truths and a Lie: Forces of Nature, Ammi-Joan Paquette & Laurie Ann Thompson

History!: The Past as You've Never Seen it Before, DK Smithsonian