

## **The Lying Game**

**Sara Shepard**

**Reviewed by: Sierra Irvine, 19**

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

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Emma Paxton has grown up in foster care her entire life until one day her foster brother, Travis, shows her a video of a girl who looks exactly like her. After sending this girl, Sutton, a Facebook message, the two agree to meet. However, things are not as they seem as Sutton is already dead. Now in Sutton's place, it's up to Emma to piece together the mystery behind her long-lost twin sister's death. With so many secrets and so many eyes watching her, will Emma be able to keep up the act or will she fall prey to the same person who murdered her sister?

The Lying Game is a really good introduction to the mystery genre for those who may not be involved in it already. With such a high-stakes plot, the story really keeps you on your toes and you are constantly wondering who is a suspect and who isn't. The book does a great job of not being too predictable with each clue leading your original guesses to be wrong and giving you that anxious feeling that's so enjoyable in a good mystery book. Even after finishing, I still was left in the dark and immediately wanted to grab the next book in the series. In addition, I found all the characters to be interesting enough although nobody was a standout. As a protagonist, I like Emma and I think she's a great contrast to the more "queen-bee" character that Sutton is/was.

One thing I disliked about the book was some of the dialogue choices. I feel like the way the characters would talk, especially the female characters, was a little far-fetched and stereotypical with so many references to celebrities and abbreviations. I understand what Shepard was intending to do, but it ages the book a lot when you're reading it over a decade later. Another issue I had with the book was the stereotyping in general with generic perceptions like "the popular girl doesn't have to do her homework". I think it takes away from the more captivating mystery aspects of the book and could have been minimized while still maintaining that YA teen feel.

Overall, *The Lying Game* is a good book and would be especially of interest if you're a fan of *Pretty Little Liars*. This book is perfect for a teen audience with its mystery elements. I would highly recommend this book as a gift, especially with the other novels if you know someone who is into *Pretty Little Liars*. In addition, I would recommend renting this book before buying it because the cover art is nothing special to have on your shelf and you may not end up wanting to collect the whole series.

### **Recommended Titles:**

*Pretty Little Liars* by Sara Shepard

*Before You* by Amber Hart

*The A-List* by Zoey Dean

*Revenge of the Wannabes* by Lisi Harrison

*Private* by Kate Brian