

Genuine Fraud

E.Lockhart

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In this exciting and fast-paced thriller E. Lockhart follows the story of Imogen, but in reality she isn't Imogen at all. Jule is just pretending to be her, or rather turning into her, after the real Imogen's disappearance. Months before, Jule and Imogen are quickly taken by each other upon first meeting at Marthas Vineyard. Imogen the heiress, running from a life of expectation, and Jule the former college athlete. However as the story slowly unfolds and we learn snippets of Jule and Immie's life both before and after the dissection, it becomes clear their friendship was filled with darkness and deceit.

I enjoyed this book in the way that it was very fast-paced and was easy to get into. The characters were not very likable people, however, they were interesting. Both Imogen and Jule seemed both incredible and awful people at the same time. The narrator was completely unreliable and it was interesting to see her descend into madness as she becomes more and more obsessed with Imogen. I also really enjoyed the commentary on social issues, particularly concerning women and female roles in books. Jule views herself as the hero of the story, and talks a lot about how the hero is mainly portrayed by a white male, as well as many other things. However, the plot was a bit confusing and at times it felt all over the place. I liked the thought of starting the book at the end and reading it backwards, but the jumps in time were very confusing. The story was not told in chronological order so you would go forward a few months and then go back to add onto the story. All of this caused me to feel lost at times, and therefore I didn't get to enjoy the story as much. At the end of this book I am still left very confused, and would have liked some more clarity into why certain things happened. The problem I had with the characters is that they started off bad and ended bad. The story introduced Jule as a lying and deceptive person, and she stayed true to that. Therefore the characters didn't get any better in my mind and you don't see the gradual change from good to bad that you would see in other books. They start as bad people and end as bad people.

I would recommend this book for people who are above the age of 15, or are at a high reading level. This is mainly because the plot is very hard to grasp, and it requires you to pay a lot of attention. You have to focus on many different plot points and hidden factors to be able to understand what is happening during the book and what happens at the end. The book also handles some dark themes, primarily surrounding murder. Other than that, reading the book being told by Jule is a little troubling. This is because of her obsessive behaviors towards her friends and the other dark themes associated with her. I would say if you enjoy the book the first time it would be good to reread and really be able to understand the plot. However I would say the book is hit or miss, and I will only be reading it once.

Recommended Titles:

The Talented Mr. Ripley, Patricia Highsmith

We Were Liars, E.Lockhart

One of Us Is Lying, Karen M. McManus

A Good Girls Guide to Murder, Holly Jackson