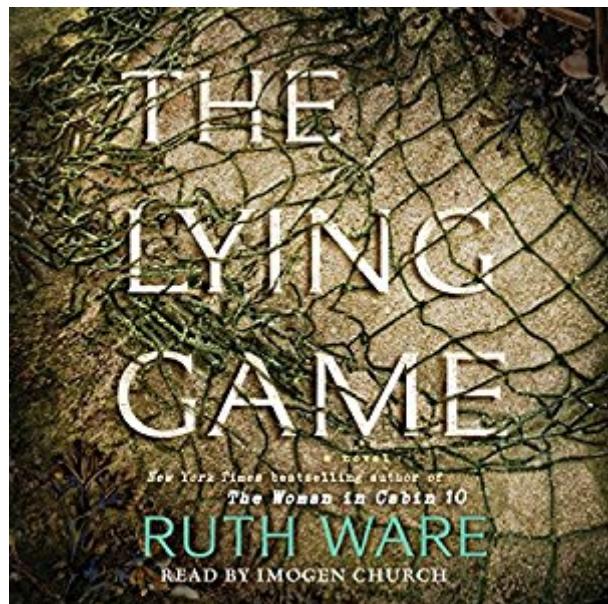


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The Lying Game: A Novel



Synopsis

From the New York Times best-selling author of the "pulse-quicken" (Good Housekeeping UK) In a Dark, Dark Wood and The Woman in Cabin 10 comes Ruth Ware's highly anticipated third novel, featuring her signature "verve and energy" (Library Journal). On a cool June morning, Isa Wilde, a resident of the seemingly idyllic coastal village of Salten, is walking her dog along a tidal estuary. Before she can stop him, Isa's dog charges into the water to retrieve what first appears to be a wayward stick - and to her horror, Isa discovers it's not a stick at all...but a human bone. As her three best friends from childhood converge in Salten to comfort a seriously shaken-up Isa, terrifying discoveries are made, and their collective history slowly unravels. Tackling the slipperiness of memories, the relativity of truth, and the danger of obsessive friendships, The Lying Game is a gripping mystery with compelling characters and electric prose, resulting in a can't-stop-listening thriller.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you love psychological suspense, you're going to love Ruth Ware's novels. Her third book, The Lying Game has just released and yes, I loved it! Isa, Kate, Thea and Fatima all attended the same seaside boarding school. While there, they played what they called The Lying Game. They lied to everyone but adhered to the one rule they laid down - never lie to each other. But their game and their time together abruptly comes to an end when something tragic occurs. Expelled and split up, they go their own ways, except Kate, who stays in Salten. Now grown with careers and families,

they only sporadically stay in touch. But, when Kate sends a text with the words 'I need you' to the other three, they immediately come back to Salten. You see, the past can only stay buried so long - and an omission is as good as a lie....I am a huge fan of 'unreliable narrator' tales - I love trying to suss out what is actually the truth. This time we have multiples - four self proclaimed liars. Isa is our lead character. We see both the present and the past through her eyes and memories. More of what I love - that back and forth only heightens the tension of a book. We know something has happened in the past - unclear references hint at something terrible, but it is never completely spelled out. (And is only finally revealed in the last few chapters.) I need to know what the secret is! The book then switches back to the present - another sure fire technique for keeping me up late reading. The Lying Game has a mystery at its core, but it is also an exploration of female friendship and familial relationships. These four wouldn't seem to be drawn together as friends - they're all very different in personality and temperament. Ware does a wonderful job portraying and exploring the bonds of friendship, loyalty and time. The same goes for the family piece - what defines a family and where does loyalty lie? The setting is perfect - a remote coastal town, an isolated school, a ruin of a building that has housed family, friends and secrets for many years, as well as a surrounding village filled with distinctly contentious inhabitants. All of this just adds a great atmospheric backdrop for the all the possibilities, scenarios and questions I came up with. The Lying Game is a character driven novel with a secret at the heart of it. A secret that changes the course of many lives. It's an addictive read - one I didn't want to put down - and one I finished far too fast again. This reader will be waiting for book number four.

This book has great atmosphere. I've really enjoyed all of Ruth Ware's books; each one of them has great characters (though not necessarily the nicest of people) and a great mystery that needs to be unraveled. In this book, she explores the ties of childhood. What would you be willing to do for your closest friends from school? And if they called, fifteen years later and asked for your help, would you come? Would you risk your present happiness? Another page turner that I ripped through to get to the satisfying conclusion!

This is a terrific book. She's one of the few authors who can develop her characters quickly. Her depiction of the setting really left nothing to the imagination. I got it right from the start. I used Whispersync so finished this book more quickly than usual. The Audible narrator was very good. This was a page turner and, at times, very creepy and I loved every minute of it.

One of Ware's best. Beautifully constructed and written. One doesn't have to be a genius to have figured out the ending but it doesn't matter. Ware gives life to four very distinct women who rush to assist one another if any texts "I need you." Great reading no matter what the season

“The Lying Game” is the third novel by Ruth Ware, the British writer who is the author of two previous books which are also in the genre of psychological crime thrillers. The story line of “The Lying Game” centers around four young women, Kate, Fatima, Thea, and Isa, who were classmates and best friends at Salten, a British boarding school near the cliffs of the English Channel. During their tenure at Salten, these girls had concocted an ill-advised recreational activity known as “The Lying Game,” which involved the continual telling of lies to their classmates and faculty, along with the deceit and subterfuge that were required to maintain and perpetuate these fabrications. Not surprisingly, this misguided lying game ended very badly, after a mysterious scandal resulted in their expulsion from the Salten boarding school. Years later, when these young women are in their early thirties, their long-standing secret is suddenly at risk of being revealed, after a long period of dormancy. A sinister discovery in the waters of the tidal estuary known as the Reach threatens to expose the misdeeds of their shared past at the Salten boarding school. This prompts the transmission of a cryptic text from the only member of this formerly inseparable clique who had remained in Salten, sent to her three former classmates and collaborators, who are now living in the London area. This enigmatic text triggers a sequence of events that forms the basis for the story line of this very atmospheric and riveting novel.

“The Lying Game” is an intriguing, suspenseful, and captivating psychological crime thriller, which is decidedly well-written, and difficult to put down. I found “The Lying Game” to be a great summer read, which definitely merits a five-star rating, along with an enthusiastic recommendation.

Four friends from their teen years re-assemble 17 years later for a heart wrenching reunion. Layers of deceit finally reveal what happened to Kate's father all those years ago. Fast pace with lots of angst! A good read!

This book is a good read. I would have given it the full 5 stars but I felt it went a little long. I thought the story was dragging in the middle. Despite that I enjoyed this Ruth Ware novel like I have enjoyed the others.

This was such a good read. After loving The Woman in Cabin 10 so much this definitely lived up to what I expected from Ruth Ware. When four girls who went to boarding school together reunite over three words "I need you" trouble begins. Past events have come back to haunt them. Many plot twist later and you will have not seen the ending coming. This is a great thriller/suspense book for a last weekend of summer.

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