



ONE PERFECT LIE

by Lisa Scottoline

B

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- A Note from the Author

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- Ideas for Book Groups
- Reading Group Questions

S

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- An Excerpt from *After Anna*

A
*Reading
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 ST. MARTIN'S GRIFFIN



A Note from the Author

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for reading *One Perfect Lie*, and I hope you enjoyed it! It has a major plot twist, but I won't reveal any spoilers here, for those of you who look at this before you've finished the book. (I confess I do things like that all the time. But don't tell anybody.) I love having these materials in the back of the book. They're fun for any reader, whether you're in a book club or not.

For starters, I thought you might like knowing where I got the idea for the book, because it came to me in a way no novel ever has before, and I've written almost thirty of them.

It all began with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: I was asked to throw out the first pitch for the Philadelphia Phillies on Ladies' Night. Wow!

I grew up in Philadelphia and live in its suburbs, so the Phillies are my hometown team, and my daughter, Francesca, was also invited, since we write a newspaper column called "Chick Wit" together, as well as a series of humorous memoirs. I was so honored to be asked, but at the same time, I was also panicky.

My first thought was: *What do I wear?*

And my second thought was: *How do I pitch?*

I mean, let's be realistic. I like baseball on TV, but throwing a pitch in a Major League stadium is a whole other level. I've never pitched for real in my life, and I didn't want to make a fool of myself, especially since I was representing all womankind.

So I talked to my best friend, Laura, and she lent me her wonderful teenaged sons, Shane and Liam, both superb baseball players. They gave me pitching lessons, and I



also started watching the baseball games at my local high school. I saw the camaraderie among the players, as well as the excitement and competitiveness of the game. And I started to meet some of the baseball moms and dads. And one day, the thought struck me: *What if?*

Lots of my books start with what-if, but this time the what-if was diabolical: What if I were a stranger who wanted to infiltrate a high-school baseball team? What if I had an ulterior motive? What if I were an imposter, impersonating a high-school baseball coach, who wanted to use a player as a pawn? Which player would I choose? What would the moms do? How far would the imposter go to accomplish his goal?

When you're a writer, that's how your brain works.

Although you look completely normal.

Long story short, I threw a decent first pitch on Ladies' Night and I started writing *One Perfect Lie*. And now you know that I'm secretly diabolical, at least in fiction.

Thank you for reading the book. I'm hoping it was a home run!

Love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa See". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Behind the
Novel*



Ideas for Book Groups

I am a huge fan of book clubs because it means people are reading and discussing books. Mix that with wine and carbs, and you can't keep me away. I'm deeply grateful to all who read me, and especially honored when my book is chosen by a book club. I wanted an opportunity to say thank you to those who read me, which gave me the idea of a contest. Every year I hold a book-club contest and the winning book club gets a visit from me and a night of fabulous food and good wine. To enter is easy: All you have to do is take a picture of your entire book club with each member holding a copy of my newest hardcover and send it to me by mail or email. No book club is too small or too big. Don't belong to a book club? Start one. Just grab a loved one, a neighbor, or friend, and send in your picture of each of you holding my newest book. I look forward to coming to your town and wining and dining your group. For more details, just go to www.scottoline.com.

Tour time is my favorite time of year because I get to break out my fancy clothes and meet with interesting and fun readers around the country. The rest of the year I am a homebody, writing every day, but thrilled to be able to connect with readers through email. I read all my email, and answer as much as I can. So, drop me a line about books, families, pets, love, or whatever is on your mind at lisa@scottoline.com. For my latest book and tour information, special promotions, and updates, you can sign up at www.scottoline.com for my newsletter.



The Bunnies Book Club of Scottsdale, Arizona, submit their photo for Lisa's book-club contest.

*Keep on
Reading*



Reading Group Questions

1. The tagline for *One Perfect Lie* is: The most perfect lie is the one you tell yourself. Confession time! What is the biggest lie that you tell yourself? Have you ever been fooled by someone who pretended to be someone they weren't? Why were you fooled, in retrospect? How did you deal with them?
2. In *One Perfect Lie*, the setting seems like the ideal suburban town, but things are not as rosy behind the scenes. The same thing happens with social media, where everyone's life seems so perfect. Are you on social media? In what ways is it good, and in what ways bad? What do you like and dislike about it? What kind of Facebook poster are you? Only happy things? Never post, just comment on others? Post everything, including your meals?
3. The moms in this book are "baseball moms," meaning their boys (or girls) play baseball, and they support them in their sport. Sports are such a vital part of our culture and childrens' childhoods, yet the term "baseball mom" or "soccer mom" almost has a negative connotation. Why do you think that is so? In what ways are moms vital to the youth sports in America? What do you think of the youth sports culture today and how has it changed since you were young? Do you have a proudest Mom Moment, sports-related or otherwise?
4. In the book, we see how competition can come between best friends. With sports comes competition—it is inevitable—but it can also cause problems. How do you define healthy competition? When does it become unhealthy? Have you ever lost a friendship over competitiveness? Have you ever had a situation with your child where competitiveness became an issue? In what ways have professional sports increased the competitive nature of sports?



5. Evan, one of the teen boys, suffers from “affluenza.” What is your understanding of what that means? Do you think affluenza can serve as an excuse for bad behavior? Do you blame the child, the parent, or both in cases where teens act out of control? How do parents of financial means balance giving their children a good life with spoiling them beyond repair? In what ways are the teens of today better off than the older generation, and in what ways are they facing worse conditions?
6. Without giving anything away, there is an “end justifies the means” situation in the book. How do you feel about this philosophy? Have you ever used this as a justification for something you have done in your life? If so, when? Has someone ever used it as an excuse for something they have done to you? How did it make you feel? Did you agree or disagree?
7. There are many different family configurations represented in *One Perfect Lie*. Which family do you relate to the best? What are the benefits of each situation, and what are the negatives? Have we, as a society, become more accepting of non-traditional families? Do we do enough to support single parents? What can be done to make absentee parents more responsible for their children? Do you think it is better for children to spend time with a mother or father who is a bad influence or are they better off not seeing the parent at all?
8. Parenting teenagers is not easy, just as being a teenager is not easy. What are the challenges of parenting teens? What are the challenges of being a teen today? In what ways can we as a society try to bridge the gap between parents and teenagers? What kind of teen were you? How did your parents react? What things did you emulate from your parents, and what things did you vow to not duplicate?

*Keep on
Reading*

9. Sexting, or sending naked or sexual texts, is commonplace these days among teens. Why do you think that is happening? Who do you think is responsible for the increased sexual activity of our young children? How can we protect our children, while still allowing them some freedom and showing we trust them? Have you experienced any situations where your child made a mistake with something they posted on social media? What was the fallout, and how did you react? Should we let children make a mistake before we monitor them? Do you monitor your child's social media? Do they know it?
10. In the book, Jordan's mom reprimands Raz, with good reason. How would you feel if another parent scolded your child, no matter what the age? Do you believe it takes a village to raise a child? If you observe a child you know doing something wrong, do you say something to the child? To the parent? Have you ever informed a parent of another child's actions? What was their response? Would you do it again?