

ONE OF US IS LYING

by Karen McManus

Published in 2017

Rating (0 stars is the absolute worst, 10 stars is the BEST BOOK EVER)



Genre(s):



Contemporary/Realistic



Action/adventure



Science Fiction



Fantasy



Romance



Horror



Mystery



Nonfiction



Historical fiction



Other:

One of Us is Lying by Karen McManus is a YA mystery novel that follows four students, Bronwyn, Addy, Nate, and Cooper, as they're all suspected of murdering Simon, who runs their school's gossip app. The five students were all sent to detention together, and the book is centered around the murder investigation surrounding the case and also explores each character's lives.

One thing that I liked about this book was that it was fairly easy to follow, and the writing was easy to understand. In addition to this, I also really liked how there were multiple POVs. It made the book more fun to read, since I was able to learn more about each character individually. I got to learn more about their struggles, and I enjoyed seeing how each character developed, especially Nate, who I feel like made the most noticeable growth. Even with this though, I feel like some of the character's developments didn't feel complete by the end, like Nate's. I feel like with Nate, his struggles with his home life and trauma weren't given enough depth. Additionally, the book explores themes like family expectations/pressure and sexuality too.

On the other hand, something that I didn't enjoy as much was the really predictable twist that the book had. When the big twist was revealed, I was really underwhelmed. Also, I feel like at times, the romance in the book overshadowed the main plot at times, specifically the romance between Nate and Bronwyn. In addition to this, I feel like the further I went into the book, the more unsatisfied I was at the romance; it felt underdeveloped and rushed sometimes. However, I'm not a big romance reader, so people really into romance would likely enjoy it more than I did. I would mainly recommend this book to people who are new to mystery novels, and also like a romance sub-plot. This is since the book's plot is fairly easy to follow and, in my opinion, the mystery aspect of the book is not too heavy, with the romance helping to alleviate some tensions that are in the book.

By Kandy S, 11th grade, enjoys reading contemporary, mystery, fantasy and action/adventure