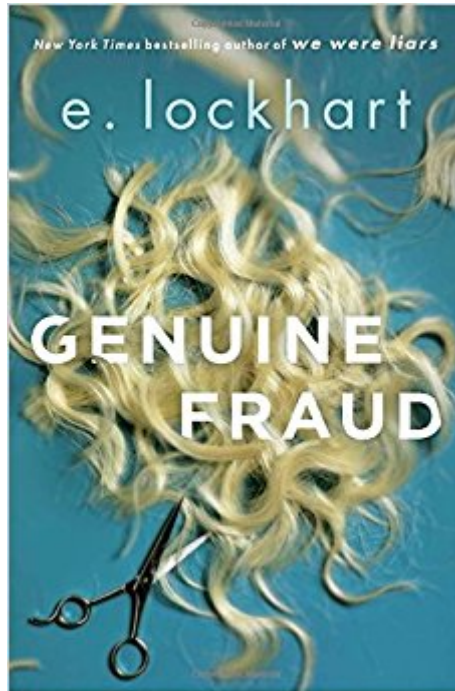




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Genuine Fraud



Synopsis

From the author of the unforgettable New York Times bestseller *We Were Liars* comes a masterful new psychological suspense novel—the story of a young woman whose diabolical smarts are her ticket into a charmed life. But how many times can someone reinvent themselves? You be the judge. Imogen is a runaway heiress, an orphan, a cook, and a cheat. Jule is a fighter, a social chameleon, and an athlete. An intense friendship. A disappearance. A murder, or maybe two. A bad romance, or maybe three. Blunt objects, disguises, blood, and chocolate. The American dream, superheroes, spies, and villains. A girl who refuses to give people what they want from her. A girl who refuses to be the person she once was. Praise for E. Lockhart’s *We Were Liars*: “Haunting, sophisticated. . . . Twisty and well-told.” —*The Wall Street Journal* “[It] will leave you dying to talk about the book with a pal or ten.” —*Parade.com* “You’re going to want to remember the title. *Liars* details the summers of a girl who harbors a dark secret, and delivers a satisfying but shocking twist ending.” —*Entertainment Weekly* “An ambitious novel with an engaging voice, a clever plot and some terrific writing.” —*The New York Times Book Review* “Thrilling, beautiful, and blisteringly smart, *We Were Liars* is utterly unforgettable.” —John Green, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Fault in Our Stars*

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Customer Reviews

"The appended note lists many inspirations for the novel. Indeed, particular debt is

owed to Highsmith, but Lockhart's command of structure, pacing, atmosphere, and character are accomplishments all this author's own." --The Horn Book

"A bracing pace, a slew of far-flung locations, and a storyline that runs mostly in reverse will keep readers on their toes, never entirely sure of what these girls are responsible for or capable of." --Publishers Weekly, Starred Review

"Captivating . . . bewitching." --Booklist, Starred Review

"An excellent choice recommended for teens and adults who love twisty mysteries, stories about class conflict, and tough-as-nails teen girls." --SLJ, Starred Review

"This thriller from the author of *We Were Liars* (2014) will challenge preconceptions about identity and keep readers guessing." --Kirkus Reviews, Starred Review

The appended note lists many inspirations for the novel. Indeed, "particular debt is owed to Highsmith, but Lockhart's command of structure, pacing, atmosphere, and character are accomplishments all this author's own." --The Horn Book

E. Lockhart wrote the New York Times bestseller *We Were Liars*, which is also available in a deluxe edition. Her other books include *Fly on the Wall*, *Dramarama*, *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks*, and the *Ruby Oliver Quartet*, which includes *The Boyfriend List*, *The Boy Book*, *The Treasure Map of Boys*, and *Real Live Boyfriends*. Visit her online at emilylockhart.com, and follow @elockhart on Twitter.

Emily Lockhart had a great deal to live up to with the success of her most recent novel *We Were Liars*. After reading *Genuine Fraud*, I feel like she does a great job of providing another fantastic reading experience. When I read Lockhart's work I don't want to miss a thing and I felt myself slowing the pace of my reading, which was worth it. Her work is the kind that I could go back through after reading a first time, and read again, still getting something new out of it in a re-reading. This novel is full of suspense and intrigue. Jule is a character readers won't soon forget and the Single White Female vibe of the entire story and the way things are revealed makes this book un-put-down-able.

Genuine Fraud is the first Lockhart book I've read and I feel like doubling back to read her other books because this one was great fun. It has a wonderful momentum that makes it hard to put down. If you've read Patricia Highsmith's *Ripley* novels the homage to Lockhart's Jules protagonist is impossible to miss.* She tells the story backwards so you're always looking back to what came before. Early on in the action I would have sworn Jules was the consummate unreliable narrator but

started to doubt so as I turned the pages. Lockhart provides an accurate account of young people in their late teens and early twenties. She also stays away from overt cussing (the term effing stands in a lot) and no detailed sexual accounts are included so parents if you're ok with these paradigms you won't object to your kids reading the book. Truly frightening is how realistic the criminal behavior seems and how easy it would be for a desperate young person to slide into. It's odd how such misguided people are so likable as presented by Lockhart.*you don't have to have read the Highsmith books to enjoy *Genuine* or the other books she references owing a debt to in her back note but the Ripley books (except possibly for the final one) are wonderful.

Genuine Fraud By. lockhart What it's all about... This book is literally told backwards so it gradually makes sense by the time you get to the last page. Jule envies Imogen and does an amazing amount of life changing things to emulate and eventually become Imogen. This is one of those books that is written in such a complicated manner as to make it relatively confusing. It's a check back book because you often aren't clear about the characters, their actions and what you've read. Why I wanted to read it... I loved this author's book... we were liars. That's why I wanted to read this book. I didn't love this book. I found the characters to be shallow and annoying... actually murderously annoying. Sneaky, dishonest and immoral can be added to their characteristics, too. What made me enjoy this book somewhat... Jule was a clever psychotic person who didn't seem to have a moral to her name. Imogen was just confusing to me... mean, nice, mean, nice... I have no clue what she was. Why you should read it, too... but prepare yourself... Readers who enjoy a bizarre mystery might enjoy this book. I did not enjoy reading it.

Jule West Williams is a young woman with many faces - and facades she's developed over time to seduce the unwary and take advantage of them, especially the rich. With a trauma-filled past (though that could be just part of her persona), Jule sees herself as a an orphan, alone in the world, and also as a cinematic action hero of sorts - but on her own terms. According to her, she was raised by an aunt, and forced to drop out of college due to sexual harassment - but the reader will quickly spot discrepancies in her backstory. When the book begins, she is staying (or hiding?) in a hotel where she quickly realizes that a woman she's just met may actually be a detective on her trail. As Jule takes steps to evade detection, the book unfolds in a backward time frame - starting with Jule's intimate friendship with heiress Imogen Sokoloff (also an orphan), which has gone awry with a few deaths along the way. Though Imogen is initially wary of Jule, she eventually warms up to her - but then signs appear that she is going to treat Jule just like all her other intimates that she

wooded and then discarded. As the reader puts the pieces of the mystery together, a scenario from "The Talented Mr. Ripley" emerges, with Jule taking increasingly desperate measures to avoid being brought to justice. Overall: The plot seemed a little too close for comfort to the aforementioned inspiration, but I enjoyed the book and the author's observations on such things as action hero stereotypes and such.

Jule is strong. She is athletic. She is resilient. Imogen is charming. She is wealthy. She is enchanting. Together Jule and Imogen could be the perfect pair. Or maybe that was never the plan. Whatever Imogen might think, Jule knows that they need each other. But Jule has everything under control because she is smart. Jule is the one who will save the day, not some great white hetero action hero. Jule knows that she is the center of her story and she'll do anything to stay there in *Genuine Fraud* (2017) by E. Lockhart. This inventive standalone thriller starts at the end. Jule is in Mexico. She's on the run. And nothing turned out the way she had planned. From there the story unspools toward the beginning and the unlikely twist of fate that set Jule on this path and her collision course with Imogen. Even knowing how it all ends, this homage to classic thrillers and Victorian novels packs in more than its share of twists and shocking reveals. Like Jule herself *Genuine Fraud* is shrewd, calculating, and electric. Possible Pairings: *Charlie, Presumed Dead* by Anne Heltzel, *Don't You Trust Me?* by Patrice Kindl, *Pretending to Be Erica* by Michelle Painchaud, *Daughter of Deep Silence* by Carrie Ryan, *Bad Girls with Perfect Faces* by Lynn Weingarten

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