

DIRTY LIAR

READERS' GUIDE



Hi! Thank you for reading my book, *Dirty Liar*.

In 2019, I found myself in one of the worst depressive episodes I've ever experienced. Every night I would lie awake in bed, doing nothing but worrying. Worrying about what would happen if my husband suddenly died, if our house burned down, if a serial killer knocked on our door, if the zombie apocalypse ever actually happened. You know, the usual.

One night, I found myself wondering what would happen if I fell down a well. While a part of me could recognize the absurdity of this concern, at 3 o'clock in the morning, things take on a sort of terror that they might not otherwise. And so I imagined myself stuck at the bottom of a well, helpless and alone.

That's when the idea of *Dirty Liar* came to me. At the time, I didn't know James or Lily or even really Aurora, but I knew that raw fear of the woman at the bottom of the hole. And I knew I had to tell her story.

I hope you enjoyed reading it.

Cheers,
Marissa

If you or someone you know is suffering from domestic violence, please contact
The National Domestic Violence Hotline at
1-800-799-SAFE or
www.thehotline.org

1. All three characters in this book had dark sides and kept secrets. Who do you think was the real villain? Whose crimes were the worst?

2. When James and Aurora have their final confrontation in the woods, Aurora is surprised to see him tear up when talking about Lily. Do you think James really loved Lily? Why or why not?

3. Do you think Lily loved James? Why did she stay with him even though he was abusive toward her?

4. Even though Lily had killed someone in the past, did you feel sympathetic toward her? Why or why not? Do you think she was right to run after the incident with her father, or should she have stayed and faced the consequences? How might her life had turned out differently if she'd stayed?

5. Were you surprised to find out that it was not Lily in the hole? Did the author 'play fair' in creating that twist? Were there any clues that it was someone other than Lily?

6. James was left alone in the woods where he starved / died of dehydration at the bottom of the hole. Did he get what he deserved?

7. What did you think of the ending? Do you believe Aurora ever loved James, or did she just hate him and want to punish him?

8. Do you think Aurora will end up in prison? Does she deserve to?