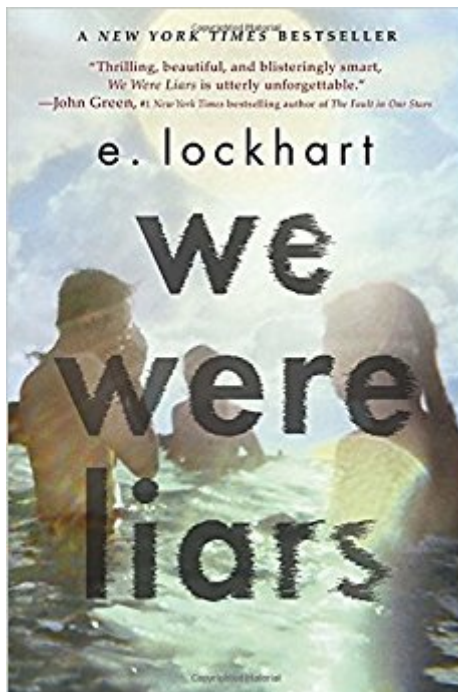


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# We Were Liars



## Synopsis

A New York Times Bestseller One of James Patterson's "Favorite Thrillers for the Beach" (New York Times) "Haunting, sophisticated . . . a novel so twisty and well-told that it will appeal to older readers as well as to adolescents." â "Wall Street Journal" "A rich, stunning summer mystery with a sharp twist that will leave you dying to talk about the book with a pal or ten." â "Parade.com" "Thrilling, beautiful, and blisteringly smart, *We Were Liars* is utterly unforgettable." â John Green, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Fault in Our Stars* "Youâ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." â Breia Brisse, *Entertainment Weekly* "A beautiful and distinguished family. A private island. A brilliant, damaged girl; a passionate, political boy. A group of four friendsâthe *Liars*âwhose friendship turns destructive. A revolution. An accident. A secret. Lies upon lies. True love. The truth.â *We Were Liars* is a modern, sophisticated suspense novel from New York Times bestselling author, National Book Award finalist, and Printz Award honoree E. Lockhart.â Read it. And if anyone asks you how it ends, just LIE." "An ambitious novel with an engaging voice, a clever plot and some terrific writing." â "New York Times Book Review" "No one should be talking about the shocking twist ending. What we can talk about is...[Lockhart's] razor-sharp portrayal of a family for whom keeping up appearances is paramount and, ultimately, tragic." â "The Chicago Tribune"

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: HL600L (What's this?)

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Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.9 x 8.6 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 2,817 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #5,797 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Death & Dying #16 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emotions & Feelings #23 in Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Mystery & Detective

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

An Best Young Adult Book of the Month, May 2014: E. Lockhart's novel, *We Were Liars*, is clever, alluring, and wildly addictive. Each summer the wealthy, seemingly perfect, members of the Sinclair family gather on their private island. *We Were Liars* is the story of those annual reunions; in particular what happened during a summer that protagonist Cadence is unable to remember.

Prejudice, greed, and shifting patriarchal favoritism among the three adult sisters contrasts with the camaraderie and worldview of the teenage cousins and their dear friend Gat. Lazy days of sticky lemonades on the roof and marathon Scrabble games give way to twisty suspense, true love, and good intentions gone horribly wrong. *We Were Liars* is a story that begs to be read in one sitting.

--Seira Wilson

Gr 9 Up "Cadence Sinclair Easton comes from an old-money family, headed by a patriarch who owns a private island off of Cape Cod. Each summer, the extended family gathers at the various houses on the island, and Cadence, her cousins Johnny and Mirren, and friend Gat (the four "Liars"), have been inseparable since age eight. During their fifteenth summer however, Cadence suffers a mysterious accident. She spends the next two years "in a haze of amnesia, debilitating migraines, and painkillers, trying to piece together just what happened. Lockhart writes in a somewhat sparse style filled with metaphor and jumps from past to present and back again" rather fitting for a main character struggling with a sudden and unexplainable life change. The story, while lightly touching on issues of class and race, more fully focuses on dysfunctional family drama, a heart-wrenching romance between Cadence and Gat, and, ultimately, the suspense of what happened during that fateful summer. The ending is a stunner that will haunt readers for a long time to come." Jenny Berggren, formerly at New York Public Library

I recommend that you read this one twice. Once to follow the story to its revelation of a horrible truth. Then, re-reading the book with this knowledge changes the meaning of almost every page. The second reading, for me, was more powerful than the first. Can't wait for the next novel.

The best way to describe this book for me was trudging my way through it because I paid for it. It wasn't until the final 1/4 that I was finally interested and truly the ending was fantastic. So if you're

patient and have time to get through the bland writing for a great ending- then this is the book for you.

The writing style of this book, at first, quite annoyed me. As I progressed through the book, however, I realized that I could connect to Cadence's emotions better this way; with Lockhart's almost lyrical writing style. Her purple prose did confuse me like many other readers, but I thought it was brilliant in a way, again, of getting the character's emotions through to the reader. The characters themselves, however, were very bland to me. I felt no connection to any of the cast of characters. Honestly, they could all die, and my reaction would be like, "alright, well that's a wrap." When I was not even halfway through the book, I started to skim through the book because the book had gotten really slow and boring, and I just wanted to read the ending. The plot was not even intriguing enough to bump it up one star. I guessed the ending, though not the specifics, about 40 or so pages in. E. Lockhart seemed to focus too much on the writing style and plot and forgot about everything else. If you want to know what the hype is all about, then read it and see if this book is for you. It wasn't for me.

Simply breathtaking. Both in prose and storyline. I'm a huge sucker for effortless imagery and this book delivered it in spades. People will argue that the characters are self-absorbed, but in my opinion that's a staple of YA books. People will also complain that the main character is not very bright even though she tries to pass herself off as intelligent -- as though this is the first time an 18yo was more confident about their abilities than they probably should be. I think most of the problems people have with the book are because of the genre it's written for and not the actual story itself. So, if you're not interested in reading about teens from a teen's perspective, this probably isn't the book for you. Personally, I loved this story, and I am usually pretty hard to please with the YA genre. I felt like the characters were realistically written, faults and all, and the slow unravelling of the family unit throughout the book tied in nicely to Cadence's opening statements in the first chapter. While there are elements of a love story there's so much more complexity to the plot, which I find a lot of YA authors have trouble doing. I finished this novel in 2 hours -- it's an incredibly quick read, big print and short chapters -- and I've been recommending it to family and friends ever since. Can't wait to read more from Lockhart in the future!

I bought this book because I love reading heart breaking books, (I'm awful right?) I truly enjoyed this book, although it didn't live up to my "heart breaking" standards. I think a major reason would be

due to the fact that I couldn't connect to the characters. The author has a unique but elegant way of writing which I enjoyed, and the story itself is playful and easy to keep up with. But if you're like me and love to be so involved in books that they can break your heart, - I personally wouldn't put this in the list although it being a good read.

Intriguing, mysterious, and beautiful. Everyone says you're better off not knowing tons about this book - and I wholeheartedly agree with that. I will say though, I thought the writing was beautiful. It's definitely not for everyone, but I personally liked it. If I were to describe this book I would say it's *The Unbecoming of Mara Dyer* meets *The Summer I Turned Pretty*. It had both the summer beach homes and the mystery. And I loved both of those books so it's only fitting that I enjoyed this as well. It's also very entrancing and very hard to put down! I read a majority of it in a sitting. Another pro is that it keeps you guessing. As for the few cons that there are - There is kind of a large cast to keep track of, but all the characters are pretty much likable/ enjoyable to read about. Also there is a lot of metaphors. Occasionally I had to reread some of them to fully comprehend what she was trying to say. All that being said I did really enjoy this book. I would say it's worth the hype and HIGHLY recommend it. Rating: 4.5 stars

I don't know that I would even consider this a book for young adults! The characters were but...wow! To be honest, I must say it started out slow and took awhile to get me hooked, but the prose was such that I trudged on knowing the reviews were attributed to a heck of twist in the end. My sister also insisted I read it, and she normally reads the likes of Austin and Bronte so I couldn't NOT finish. You won't regret it! I plan on rereading it later.

I did not see it coming. And now I want to go back and reread certain parts knowing what I now know. I think it is definitely a good and fast read. It is only a few hundred pages but yet the character development was excellent and artful. Because it is told from the narration of a teenager, it has a wide appeal. The reader experiences several summers on a family compound on an island and involved (not overly) in all the relationships unfolding between family members. The narrator, though, has lost her memory due to an accident and we are taken along to try to understand just what happened to her. That is the question building to the end of the book. I will not spoil it for anyone. But I think I felt the same sense of OMG that the narrator felt as the truth unfolded. It is different from the complicated plots I usually read, but as such it was simple and gentle yet had the mystery carrying me through to the end to find out what happened to this girl. I think you will like the

book.

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