



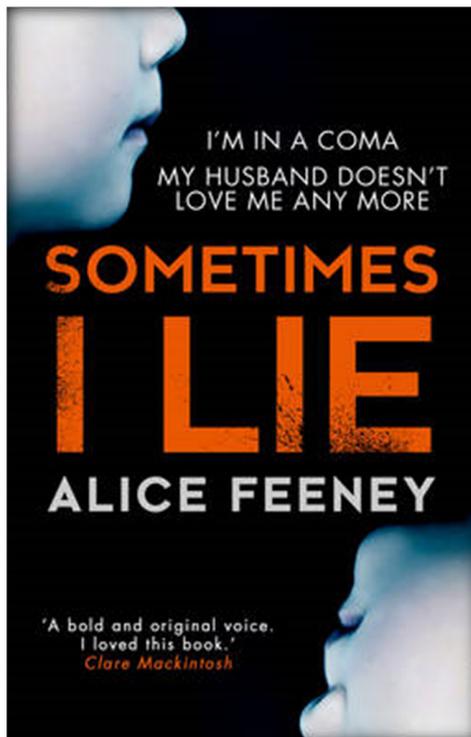
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LoveReading Reader reviews of **Sometimes I Lie** by Alice Feeney

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



Helen Appleby

*I read this book in almost one sitting and couldn't put it down it is **the best book I have read in a long time, thrilling, gripping and enticing at every page turn.***

This is the best psychological thriller that I have read in a long time, if you are looking for a book that you cannot put down and that has twists and turns and surprises on every page then this is for you. If you enjoyed the girl on the train and behind closed doors then I can assure you that you will love this. The story is based around Amber Reynolds and the 3 things that we should know about her, that she is in a coma and that her husband doesn't love her

anymore, and sometimes she lies. The story illustrates how Amber came to get to where she is today in hospital after what seems like a tragic car accident and that everyone is a suspect well at least to begin with until the story starts to unfold. Nothing is as it originally seems as the twists and turns begin to unfold. It's hard to review without giving away spoilers as one of those books that you need to actually read to fully appreciate.

You can follow Helen on Twitter: [helenrachel123](https://twitter.com/helenrachel123)

Caz Barnett

Three things you should know about this book:

1 You will read it in one sitting

2. *There is not one word out of place*

3. *This is a major new talent*

By the end of the introduction to this book I was already fully engaged and intrigued. From there it got better with every page, the writing was fresh, original, and utterly credible and the twists in the plot made me catch my breath. We watch a sad, unloved and lonely life unfold "I've always stayed within the lines when colouring in my life" and this girl who was always invisible is now the centre of attention as she lies in a coma, "time slowly dripping down the four walls"

It deals with memory, the blurred line where reality and imagination fuse and the language is honest and clever. There is the very real unreality of coma, the terror of strained and dangerous relationships and the long slow burning hatred of revenge.

It is an extraordinary book and you will exhale slowly once you have finished it, vowing to live life to the full "We are all made of flesh and stars but we all become dust in the end. Best to shine while you can"

Phyllippa Smithson

Intriguing thriller switching between the 10 year old Amber and adult Amber in the final days before an accident that left her in a coma – accident or crime?

Amber is in a coma after a car accident of which she initially remembers nothing except that when her husband comes to visit her, she feels threatened and terrified – only she has no capacity of speech to express her fears. She also does not understand why her husband and her sister are bitter towards each other at her bed side as she has some vague sense that there was a closeness between the two which was threatening her own marriage.

As the days unfurl, she thinks back to her 10 year old self and the best friend, Claire. The two of them were inseparable despite their very different home lives – Amber's parents were constantly at war with each other and had money constraints. Claire's parents never shouted at each other, food was all homemade and eaten together, conversation was full of happiness and warmth.

She also desperately tries to remember the details of the accident which she knows was the result of criminal intent but cannot remember why and who was the culprit.

*'Sometimes I Lie' will be a must for lovers of **The Girl On The Train** –*

totally compelling, a real page turner and an ending totally not anticipated.

Janet Gilliard

Wow! I've just finished this and am still thinking about it trying to work it out. This debut novel is a must read. Amber is in a coma. How did it happen? Can we believe what we read? The story is told from Ambers viewpoint interspersed with her childhood diary.

I don't want to give away any spoilers just read the book!

Jaine Ellis

'Sometimes I Lie', the first novel written by Alice Feeney, is an absolute tour de force. The story is told over three periods of time: 1992; the week to Christmas 2016; and from Christmas night 2016 onwards as the main character Amber, retells and recounts fragments of truths and lies. The unfolding narrative reveals unsettling traits within the four main players, none of whom are who they initially appear to be - neither likeable nor honest.

Alice Feeney is a master of the written word, creating a taut thriller that is an intriguing and shrewd window in to the world of a coma patient and the fallout of this on those closest to her. Never before have I read a novel where I truly disliked each of main players, particularly Amber and her sister, Claire. The way in which their deepest flaws are revealed throughout the novel increasing my dislike of them, their behaviours and sense of self-preservation, so believable, adding to the tension building with each turn of the page.

Just when I thought I knew what was happening, the plot took a twist, then another twist with serious repercussions and consequences for the main characters, leaving me both confused and demanding to find out more. I found myself devouring each chapter in order to know more.

*I didn't just like this novel, I absolutely loved it. 'Sometimes I Lie' has to be **THE BEST** novel I have read, it is clever, unsettling, intriguing and utterly convincing.*

Nikki Whitmore

Kept me guessing right up to the end.

Amber Reynolds is in a coma. She can hear what's going on around her, like the nurses coming and going, but she can't move and she can't speak...and she can't quite remember how she ended up in hospital in the first place. Bit by bit as she struggles to recover her memories, Amber builds up a picture of the previous few days, but is her mind deceiving her? And is Amber's version of events really all that trustworthy to begin with?

*I really enjoyed this book although I spent most of the time fighting the urge to skip ahead because I desperately wanted to know what was going on. I liked that the book slipped backwards and forwards in time and I've always had a soft spot for books that use diaries as a narrative device, especially when they end up delivering some killer blows like this one did. **Very twisty-turny** (technical term), **lots of unexpected developments and the ending was a masterpiece where threads I hadn't even realised were threads were woven together to form one shocking big picture.***

You can follow Nikki on Twitter: @njwhitters

Sophia

***Wow!! I loved this story.** I really liked how it switched between now and then and even before bits too... **really put me on edge in a good way!** This story will stay with you long after you finish.*

This story starts with Amber, she is the main character of the story and it's from her point of view. As she starts talking its clear to see she's in a coma after a very nasty accident. She can feel everything and sense everything around her but cannot move. Her husband and sister come to see her but before she had her accident they both acted different than they are now. Her sister didn't really like her and now wants to stay around her, her husband sort of liked her but now hates her and only pretends to like her in front of doctors etc.... find out what happens by reading this book.

Nicki Southwell

What a great book. I loved it.

With psychological twists and turns, the characters are manipulative, evil and very clever. You won't sleep until you have finished!

I loved this book, even though there was a point where I was becoming confused

about the characters. Once you have read this, you will see what I mean. As a debut, this is brilliant. I think Anita Feeney is an author to watch.

Two young girls meet at primary school and become firm friends. They enjoy playing together outside school and visit each other's houses. One is sad with a difficult home life, the other, the polar opposite.

The story takes us to three time zones. The early 1990's, before the event at the end of 2016 and the here and now, which is days later.

Amber is in a coma. Unbeknown to everybody, she can hear what is being said but cannot move to indicate the fact. She also cannot remember the accident and what lead to it.

Amber is married to Paul and as yet, they don't have children. Her sister Claire is also married with twin babies.

Their bond is solid. Perhaps too much so as they have been through a great deal as friends, then sisters.

I do not wish to spoil this, so will not reveal any more of the story.

Claire and Amber are both strong characters, but are both capable of desperate behaviour.

I did find the characters and their role, confusing.

I chose to read this book and all opinions in this review are all my own and completely unbiased. My thanks to Lovereading for this opportunity.

Tasha Potter

*So it said perfect for fans of 'Behind Closed Doors'.... This book was soooo much better!!!! **Absolutely fantastic!! Just when you thought you may have figured it out something else was thrown into the mix making you re-evaluate everything once again.** I loved the short chapters daring you to squeeze in another one and another, before you know it you've finished the whole book in a day!!*

Carol

Beware this book will mess with your mind! But that's ok, it's brilliant!

Gripping from the start you get drawn into the life of Amber.

Told through a diary and flitting back and forth from past to present you are kept in a place of feeling you're in the know. Until that s it all changes and you realise you know nothing.

The first half of the book is set at a steady pace and you are drawn into but it soon picks up in the second half and I couldn't put it down as it started to twist and turn.

You think you know people this book tells you, you may not!

Lorraine Blencoe

I wanted to tell everyone about this book but it was hard work to tell them anything without ruining such a compulsive read.

This is exactly what a thriller should look like. *A compelling voice grabs you right from the start and drags you into a very recent and horrifying Christmas as seen through the eyes of Amber Reynolds and the memories she pieces together whilst in coma. Throughout, questions are raised and unexpected answers are given. It's proper edge of the seat stuff and a compulsive read. Whatever you may think a dysfunctional family looks like, this all too real story will redefine that.*

This sits nicely and strongly within the long tradition of female thriller writers that this country consistently produces and is all the more impressive as a piece of debut fiction. I'm really looking forward to whatever Alice Feeney may produce in the future and it has been really hard to be too specific about anything because I wouldn't want to spoil this read for anyone.

Tanera Simons

I loved how gripping and brilliantly deceptive this book is. There were so many twists – and lies – that I was kept guessing throughout. *If you're a fan of 'Gone Girl' and 'The Girl on the Train', you'll love this.*

This book revolves around the life of Amber Reynolds, who lies in a coma after an accident that we know nothing about. Amber can hear and feel her surroundings, but is unable to move or speak. The story follows her life from three narratives: the days leading up to her accident; the days she spends lying unconscious in hospital; and her childhood from the pages of a diary. The switching in narrative keeps you in suspense throughout the novel, and with

each change you learn more about what happened to Amber.

Before even picking up the book, you are warned that ‘sometimes I lie’, and yet I didn’t quite appreciate the implication of this until the end of the book. Amber and her sister are both deeply troubled characters, shaped by a childhood tragedy and their consequent twisted relationship. This relationship forms the basis of the story, as well as the shocking twist at the end of the book.

I loved how fast-paced this book and how utterly gripping this book was. The characters are dark and unreliable, and just when you think the story has reached a happy ending Feeney leaves you with yet another twist.

Adrienne Kinsella

‘Sometimes I Lie’ is a gripping thriller that is impossible to put down. The shocking surprises keep on coming and there are multiple twists to keep the reader in suspense.

The story is cleverly told from a hospital bed as the central character, Amber, lies in a coma. The intricately layered plot slowly starts to be revealed. She cannot move or speak, but she can hear most of what is going on around her. Both her husband Paul and her sister Claire are frequent visitors at her bedside. The story is divided into three main sections, Now, where we learn that she has been in a car accident and the police think her husband, Paul was involved, Then, which covers the weeks leading up to the accident and Before, where we learn about her childhood through her diaries and her complex relationship with her sister Claire. We are told at the beginning that sometimes she lies, so what really is the truth? She also thinks her husband does not love her anymore. Nothing is really as it first seems and the story is enjoyably unpredictable. Her sister has some very serious issues and there is an ex-boyfriend, called Edward, who also has a dark side. The ending is suitably shocking and I cannot wait to read more from this author. Definitely a must read for lovers of thrillers.

Liz Bloomer

A gripping novel which, once you start it, you can't possibly put down! If this is her first novel then bring on the next!

A thoroughly enjoyable book. The reader is treated to so many twists that it keeps you guessing until the last minute. The story starts with the main character in a coma but flits backwards to the lead up to the accident which put her there and to a period when she was much younger. The descriptions of when

in the coma are really good as it is known that hearing is the last thing to go. She describes the frustration well. It is a very well written book that is a real page turner but you do need to concentrate whilst reading it! Just when you think that you know the plot, the author takes you in a new direction and you have to think again. I would imagine that this book will be a best seller and I look forward to the next one.

Sarah Harper

With more twists and turns than you can shake a stick at, this fantastic psychological thriller is a real roller coaster of a read.

Having opened the package containing 'Sometimes I Lie', I began my usual inspection and random flick-through whilst stood at my kitchen bench. Twenty minutes and five chapters later I had to force myself to stop holding my breath, put the book down and get on with what I was meant to be doing. Having been immediately drawn into Amber's life in this way, we are presented with the situation she finds herself in following an accident - the total isolation of her active mind, trapped inside her comatose body. Broken memories and childhood diaries allow us to join the dots between before and after the accident as we gradually attempt to piece together the truth. But our narrator's take on the truth is questionable. We need to remember, sometimes Amber lies.

With more twists and turns than you can shake a stick at, Sometimes I Lie builds towards its shocking climax. Despite constantly pondering over the 'facts' there was no way of knowing how this was going to end and I applaud Alice Feeney for that. There's nothing worse than sussing it all out before you are meant to and it's not easy keeping a reader on their toes and absolutely glued to the page in the way she did. A real roller coaster of a read and a brilliant psychological thriller. I loved it!

Teresa O'Halloran

An amazing psychological thriller you won't be able to leave down. Packed with so many twists and turns it will leave you dizzy and breathless.

Just when you thought the psychological thriller had been done to death along comes Alice Feeney with a plot so wild it will shock you!

Amber Reynolds is lying in a hospital bed. She is in a coma and cannot remember what happened. The only thing she is certain of is that sometimes she lies, and the reader would do well to remember that!

Amber cannot speak and she cannot move, but she can hear, and it is while listening to the conversations of those visiting her hospital room that she begins to remember. But can we believe her? And just who is the mysterious man who visits her as she lies helpless and whispers threats in her ear?

This is a stunning debut from author Alice Feeney. Just when you think you have grasped what has happened to Amber you remember that she warned you she lies and you begin to doubt everyone in this book. It seems like everyone has something to hide and everyone not just Amber is lying! This book will stay with you long after you have finished reading it.

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