



Big little lies

By Liane Moriarty

First published in 2014

Genre & subject

Australian fiction

Detective and mystery stories

Synopsis

Pirriwee Public's annual school Trivia Night has ended in a shocking riot. A parent is dead. Was it murder, a tragic accident ...or something else entirely?

Author biography

Liane Moriarty worked in advertising and marketing at a legal publishing company after leaving school. She then ran her own company for a while before taking work as a freelance advertising copywriter. After obtaining her master's degree at Macquarie University, she published her first novel *Three Wishes*, written as part of the degree.

Moriarty lives in Sydney with her husband and two children.

Discussion starters

- When Ziggy is accused of hurting another student, Jane refuses to apologise. Do you think she chooses the right course of action?
- Whose side would you have taken if you had witnessed the incident at Orientation?
- Do you think it's appropriate that Nathan and Bonnie send their daughter to the same school as Madeline's children?
- What kind of 'little lies' do you tell to be polite and keep up appearances?
- Do you think Madeline and Ed handle their blended family well? What challenges do they face?
- Madeline presents the reader with a confident portrayal of a woman – do you think her character is positive and likeable as a result, or not?
- How has the conception of Ziggy impacted Jane's self-confidence?
- Celeste obviously has the most to overcome. Did her emotional journey give you an insight into what she and other women in the same situation go through?
- Would you enjoy being friends with Madeline? Why or why not?
- Do you think Jane's move to Pirriwee was reckless? And if so, for whom?
- How did you respond to Celeste's plight?

- The demographics of the peninsular bring together a lot of different personality types, as outlined by Samantha: 'We've got a lot of tradies in Pirrawee... Most of the tradies grew up here and never left. Then you've got your alternative types. Your dippy hippies. And in the last ten years or so, all these wealthy execs and banker wankers have moved in and built massive McMansions up on the cliffs.' (p 168) Is this an accurate portrayal of suburban Australia? Do the different backgrounds of the parents affect events at the school?

If you liked this book, you may also like...

The slap by Christos Tsiolkas.

The measures between us: a novel by Ethan Hauser.



If you are looking for something new to read try **NoveList!** It is a free database to help you find that perfect book. Visit www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/library

Synopsis from Ryde Library Service catalogue. Author biography from Wikipedia. Discussion starters from Macmillan Australian Publishers, Notes for Reading Groups.