

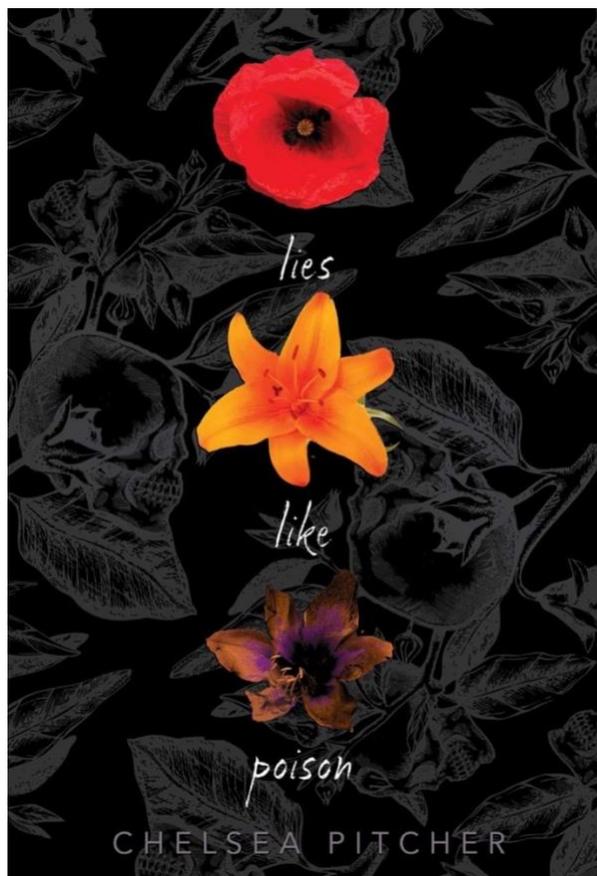
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## Review of *Lies Like Poison* Written by Chelsea Pitcher

**Adult/Educator Reviewer:** Cameron Stevenson  
University of Georgia, Athens, GA

**Child/Student Reviewer:** Olivia Kutzleb, Grade 10



Pitcher, C. (2020). *Lies Like Poison*. Margaret K. McElderry Books.

ISBN: 978-1534470958

**Adult Review: Cameron Stevenson**

*Lies Like Poison* is told through the lens of multiple teenage ex-friends in a not so classic tale of whodunnit. The main characters Jack, Lily, and Bella all wake up to the murder of Lily's stepmother who once upon a time years ago, they all planned to murder. Within this murder mystery, there are love triangles, searches for identity, and at its core, a coming-of-age story that is more complex than most.

My student reviewer and I sat down, and I let her weave through all the young adult books that were published in the past two years, and this is the one that she connected with the most. She is a lover of mystery and thrillers, and this story does enough that is unique to make it different than the other top sellers in this young adult genre. With that said, this *Lies Like Poison* gives the reader a good mystery that will keep them interested and off-balanced all the way through the final act.

This book heavily explores the effects of child abuse and the search of one's gender identity. These aspects make the book a great book to have a discussion on or be a part of a lit circle; however, it is important to be mindful of students who may have gone through or been going through similar experiences because while some of the aspects of the book may be relatable and even comforting, it could also potentially be triggering if the discussion is handled incorrectly.

**Student Review: Olivia Kutzleb (Grade 10)**

I would recommend *Lies Like Poison* to someone because it is an excellent mystery about four teenagers trying to solve a murder while attempting to prove their friends' innocence. If you have read *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder*, then you will most likely enjoy this book. In my opinion these two books gave off the same type of vibe.

This book is important because it shows true friendship at its worst and best times and how no matter what happens they will stick together. It is also interesting to see the story from the four friends' point of views. You can also see how they all grow closer throughout the book.

What I liked most about the book is the fact that there was never a dull moment, something always happened that drew me in more. I didn't want to put it down, it had so many twists and turns that you wouldn't have expected to happen. I really liked the book and I recommend it to anyone who enjoys thrillers or mystery.

## References

Jackson, H. (2019). *A good girl's guide to murder*. Random House Children's Books.