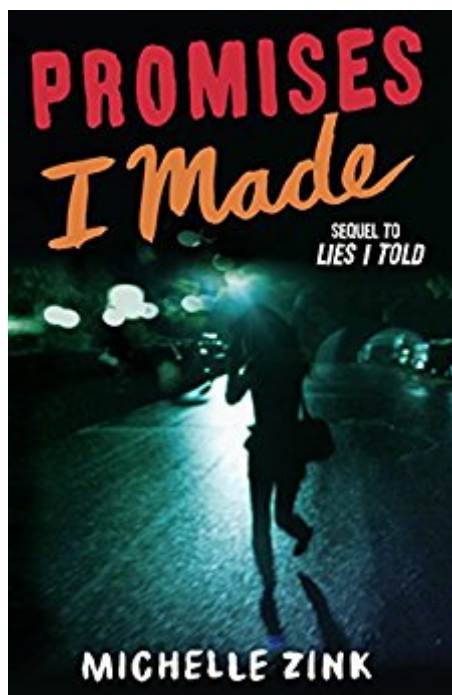


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Promises I Made (Lies I Told)



Synopsis

In the thrilling sequel to *Lies I Told*, Grace learns that the most difficult thing about pulling off the perfect crime is living with the consequences. Fans of Ally Carter, Cecily von Ziegesar, and Gail Carriger will love this thrilling, high-stakes novel, which deftly explores the roles of identity and loyalty while offering a window into the world of the rich and fabulous. Grace Fontaine was trained to carry out perfect crimes. But when a mistake was made the night her family tried to execute their biggest heist yet, her world fell apart. Haunted by the way she betrayed her brother, her friends, and Logan—the only boy she’s ever loved—Grace decides she must return to the place every thief knows you should avoid: the scene of the crime. Returning to Playa Hermosa as a wanted criminal is dangerous. But Grace has only one chance to make things right. To do it, she has to use everything she’s been taught about the art of the con to hunt down the very people who trained her: the only family she’s ever known.

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Customer Reviews

I bought this after I read the first book in the series, which I had been given for free. I had no idea

what the book was about when I opened it, but it captured my attention almost immediately! I haven't really read a series like this before, so this was a refreshing read. Grace narrates a story that is a heartbreaker at its core, and a thriller that keeps you hooked until the end. The ending is not your run of the mill happily ever after, but in a story where happy isn't an emotion often felt by the main character, it provides a sense of justice and hope for the future. I would definitely recommend this series!

The first book in the series is better, than this one, but this was a great way to finish up the story. It was a little slow to start with, but definitely answered some lingering questions from the first book!

I love that way Michelle Zink writes. I feel like I know Grace and went through all her trials with her.

Review courtesy of Dark Faerie Tales
Quick & Dirty: An amazing second installment with a lush setting and complex characters.
Opening Sentence: When I think about what happened in Playa Hermosa, it's not the gold that gets to me.
The Review: Spoilers for Lies I Told ahead
Grace has changed. She is no longer naive. She will not be used again. She takes Cormac's money and runs, with only one intention in mind: free Parker from jail, however long that takes. This isn't going to be easy, and she doesn't have the resources to stage a breakout, so she'll need allies. But how can she trust anyone after what she went through? I read Lies I Told last year, and I thought it was a decent book. I had a couple problems with the main character and the love story, but it was well written with a unique premise and a lush setting. Going into Promises I Made, I knew it was going to be a completely different storyline than the first novel, but I was unsure how that would affect how much I enjoyed it. The problems I had with Grace in the last book were gone by the end of the first chapter. In the previous installment, I thought that she was naive. Yes, she was young, and these people were her only family, but really? She was being so obviously used by Cormac and Renee but she couldn't seem to figure that out, even when her brother was so adamant about his very true opinions. At the beginning of this second book, she had seen the light. The last shred of her innocence had been destroyed the night they stole the Fairchild's gold and Parker was found by the police. Now, her only goal is to get Parker out of jail, no matter what it takes, and that gives her the strength to push through some unfortunate situations. This also makes her less trustworthy of everyone, and I liked the character development she underwent over the story, much more than the first. The other problem with the last story was the romance. Her relationship with Logan hit the ground running, and was basically insta-love, which

anyone whose read my reviews knows that I usually despise. That story was no exception. Luckily, there was much less focus in the relationship this time around, other than apologies and redemption and that sort of stuff. Altogether, I found this novel a magnificent end to the series. There was more suspense, more emotion, and more development in book two. I enjoyed the main characters much more, and it went in a very different direction than I was expecting. Ultimately, that was a success. The setting was lush and gorgeous, and the writing style nicely done. I would definitely recommend this!

Notable Scene: Cormac had used more than his share of money to rebound. Parker had gone to jail for it. I'd use every cent of what was left to get him out of trouble if I could, and I wouldn't waste any more time feeling bad for Cormac. He was on his own now. We all were.

FTC Advisory: HarperTeen provided me with a copy of Promises I Made. No goody bags, sponsorships, or material connections, or bribes were exchanged for my review.

Grace is coming undone. After the disastrous events of Lies I Told, life is more than different. Her mother, Renee, has left them, her brother Parker is in jail and her father, Cormac, is already on to the next con. And Grace? Grace is tired. She is having serious doubts about her ability to carry on with the current con and watch another person's life be ruined by Cormac's actions...and hers. Grace is still reeling from the Playa Hermosa con that left an entire family in ruins. She can't stop thinking about Logan and her part in hurting him. With Parker in jail, convicted of a shooting he had no part in, she has lost her only confidante, her only piece of sanity in the life that she leads. Cormac keeps saying that they will go after him and get him out, but it's been months and Cormac hasn't done a thing. So while Cormac is out with his newest con, Grace makes a decision: she will get Parker out of jail herself. Taking all of the money that they have left, Grace decides to go back to Playa Hermosa and set things right. Only thing is, she has no idea how to do this. She wants to put things right, to make up for the choices she made, but undoing a con is impossible and doing the right thing is even more difficult. She does the only thing she can think of: contact the detective in charge of Parker's case to work out some kind of deal. When she was with Cormac and Renee, contacting the police would have been a stupid move. However, now her choices are her own. Will she turn herself in or break Parker out of jail? She will have to decide soon. Time is running out...

Zink continues to outdo herself. I loved this book. While Lies I Told had an urgent feel while I read it, Promises I Made is its twin in that it has that same urgent feel with something different. How does Grace undo what she's done? How can she come to terms with her actions but still call herself a good person? I also loved the isolation in Promises I Made. In Lies I Told, Grace has a family and is part of a family unit, such as it

is. In *Promises I Made*, she is alone and Zink writes this so well that midway through the book you are aching for Grace and hoping for her. I loved the character development in this book. Grace has to make some difficult decisions and come to terms with a lot of heavy stuff: what makes a family, can she live with the choices she made, can she be responsible for a terrible decision but still consider herself a good person? Grace grew more as a person trying to live beyond the con and form a life for herself, on her terms. We spend a lot of time alone with Grace and we really get to know her better. This would not have worked in the hands of a lesser writer, but Zink pulls it off with aplomb. I thought I knew what Grace was capable of after reading *Lies I Told*, but in *Promises I Made*, you learn the true strength of her spirit as she comes to grips with the decisions she has made and chooses to make new ones instead. This book moved me, incredibly so. We've all struggled with finding our place in life, with choices we've made, with being told what we must do but rebelling against it. Watching Grace struggle, survive and grow on this journey was a privilege and a joy. You don't merely read *Promises I Made*. You live it.

Zink has really upped the ante in this sequel. Everything that Grace was feeling and going through is so much more real than the first book (*Lies I Told*). While the ending seems a bit too put together, I really like what happens with all the characters, and how Zink isn't afraid to get a bit dark when we're inside Grace's head. It wouldn't be believable if she didn't have some darker thoughts, considering her life, but Grace doesn't let that hold her down or give up. A quick read and needed sequel, *Promises I Made* was an enjoyable read with a nicely wrapped conclusion to this duology. I'm happy I read these books.

Slower than the first, but still enjoyable, and a little bit sadder than I expected.

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