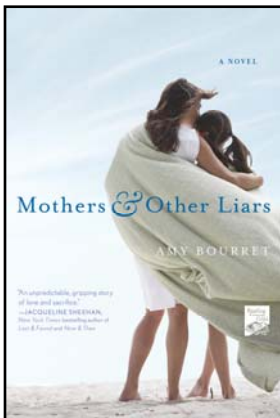


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Mothers & Other Liars

AMY BOURRET

“Watch your back, Jodi Picoult! Here comes Bourret, a Yale-trained lawyer who practiced child-advocacy law and draws on past experiences for her gripping first novel. Bourret nails the character development and pacing that make a good novel compelling. She unfolds her well-written, dramatic story in tidbits that will make readers hungry for more. Perfect for summer reading.”
–*Library Journal* (starred review)

“This lovely, lyrical novel is one that will have you on the edge of your seat as you wipe a tear from your eye... The dialogue sings on every page and the story rings with authenticity. Anyone who loved Marisa de Los Santos’s *Love Walked In* will love this.”
–Eileen Goudge, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Diary*

“An unpredictable, gripping story of love and sacrifice.”
–Jacqueline Sheehan, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Lost and Found & Now and Then*

When Ruby Leander found a sweet baby girl in the bottom of a rest stop trash can, she knew she had to *do something*. With those big brown eyes staring up at her, and not a soul in sight, Ruby couldn’t just leave her there like a half-eaten Big Mac. Nineteen, scared, and awestruck by this child, Ruby packed her in the car with the rest of her life and kept driving.

Nine years later, on an ordinary Thursday, Ruby’s seemingly happy life would come to a screeching halt. After coming across a photograph of her daughter Lark in a weekly tabloid, Ruby flashed back to that fateful day where she made a wrong turn, rescued a baby, and found herself in Santa Fe living a new life based on a big lie. Her family of friends and boyfriend of three years never knew where Lark really came from, but it didn’t matter. They too, loved her like she was their own.

In **MOTHER AND OTHER LIARS** (*St. Martin’s Griffin*; 0-312-58658-2; \$13.99; August 3, 2010), debut author Amy Bourret delivers a gripping, poignant story of unconditional love and sacrifice. Ruby Leander thought she was saving an abandoned baby, but nearly a decade later she would learn that the consequences of that selfless act would be worse than anything she could ever imagine. When she finds out the birth parents of the child she raised as her own are still looking for their daughter, she faces a choice no mother should ever have to make.

Over please

About the Author

Amy Bourret is a Yale Law School graduate and former partner in a national law firm. In school and in her practice, she did pro bono work for child advocacy organizations, where the passion that fuels *Mothers and Other Liars* was born. She has participated in many workshops, including the Iowa Writers' Workshop, the Aspen Writers' Foundation, and the Santa Fe Writers Conference. She lives in Dallas and Aspen.

MOTHERS & OTHER LIARS
Amy Bourret
0-312-58658-2; \$13.99; 320 pages
August 3, 2010
A St. Martin's Griffin Original

For more information or to request additional copies for review and/or an interview with the author, please contact:

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**Praise for *Mothers and Other Liars*
St. Martin's Griffin; August 3, 2010**

"What a joy to discover a wonderful storyteller like Amy Bourret. Her debut novel, *Mothers and Other Liars*, underscores not only the strength of the ties that bind mother and daughter but those that connect friends, as well. The love between Ruby and Lark goes to my heart. Amy Bourret's voice is one of compassion and humor, and I want to hear it again and again."

—Sandra Dallas, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Prayers For Sale*

"This lovely, lyrical novel is one that will have you on the edge of your seat as you wipe a tear from your eye... The dialogue sings on every page and the story rings with authenticity. Anyone who loved Marisa de Los Santos's *Love Walked In* will love this."

—Eileen Goudge, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Diary*

"An unpredictable, gripping story of love and sacrifice."

—Jacqueline Sheehan, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Lost and Found & Now and Then*

"Amy Bourret's smart, compelling tale of motherhood, fate, law, and love, grabbed me and pulled me into the murky pool that lies between morally right and unimaginably wrong, where good intentions are not enough to keep poor Ruby Leander afloat. You will ache for Ruby and her daughter Lark, and stay up late turning the pages, hoping for justice and for joy. Thought-provoking and suspenseful, *Mothers and Other Liars* will have you asking, 'What do you do when all the choices are impossible ones?'"

—Therese Fowler, internationally acclaimed author of *Souvenir*

"*Mothers and Other Liars* is the absorbing story of Ruby, a woman who bravely does the wrong things for all the right reasons—all for one child. Readers will be talking about this compelling novel and what it means to be a child's real mother. A strong debut."

—Lynne Griffin, author of *Life Without Summer*

"The beauty of Amy Bourret's novel is that she makes you yearn for each and every character to get exactly what they want—an outcome that is of course impossible and sets up the most delicious conflict of interests all the way to the surprising end. I was captivated by this wrenching tale of Ruby, her spunky Lark, and their tribe of fiercely loyal friends."

—Katrina Kittle, author of *The Kindness of Strangers*

"*Mothers and Other Liars* is a page-turner from beginning to end, impossible to put down. It will provoke lively debate about the meaning of motherhood, nurture, sacrifice and law. Readers who love Jodi Picoult's novels will find a new favorite in Amy Bourret."

—Liz Rosenberg, author of *Home Repair*

**A conversation with Amy Bourret, author of *Mothers and Other Liars*
St. Martin's Griffin; August 3 2010**

What was your inspiration for this book?

This sounds kind of wacky, but I was on a walk when a “what if” popped into my head: *What if you built your whole life on a certain assumption and then years later discover that the assumption was wrong?* I am intrigued with exploring the personal past and discovering how it informs the present – the road not taken and all.

You have a background in child advocacy. Is the novel based on an experience you had in the field or a case you may have worked on?

Not any specific case, really. It's more just the general experience. A child builds her own life from the foundation of her family environment life. If that environment is abuse or neglect or incest, when she is removed from the situation she faces reshaping her life with a new definition of “normal.” I think my experiences of working with scared and scarred children are wrapped into the reasons my protagonist, Ruby, makes the choices she makes.

This is your debut novel and you have created characters that are complex, believable, and ones the readers will really root for. How did you come up with their stories?

I've been told since I was a young kid that I have an “old soul.” I study people, try to figure out what makes them tick. I know the people in my own life very well, and my characters seem to be a patchwork of lots of different pieces of them and of me. That and pure invention from my arguably warped mind. Writers are lucky; they can call the voices in their heads characters while the rest of the world calls them crazy.

I'm glad the characters seem believable to the reader, because they become very real to me. My friends tease me about the time I was shopping for Christmas presents and didn't realize until I was up at the counter that I had picked out a gift for Ruby.

The subject of the book is very sensitive. What are you hoping readers will take away from *Mothers and Other Liars*?

Ruby faces some choices that make readers think what they would do in that situation. People have strong feelings about her story, some telling me they could never make those same choices, others that Ruby's path was the only one she could have taken. I'm thrilled that the story makes people think and engage in lively debate. In addition to their opinions about Ruby's choices, I hope readers also take away a different sense of what makes a “family.” It is a privilege to be invited into people's homes, to have them give my story a chunk of their own limited time. I'm honored when they feel that their reading time was well spent, that the story sticks with them after they finish the book.