



# The Secret Between Us

*Barbara Delinsky*

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**The Secret Between Us** Barbara Delinsky

**Nothing will break this mother-daughter bond. Not even the truth.**

Deborah Monroe and her daughter, Grace, are driving home from a party when their car hits a man running in the dark. Grace was at the wheel, but Deborah sends her home before the police arrive, determined to shoulder the blame for the accident. Her decision then turns into a deception that takes on a life of its own and threatens the special bond between mother and daughter.

*The Secret Between Us* is an unforgettable story about making bad choices for the right reasons and the terrible consequences of a lie gone wrong. Once again, Barbara Delinsky has delivered a riveting study of family and a superbly crafted novel, perfectly targeted to reading groups and fans of provocative fiction.

## The Secret Between Us Details

Date : Published January 22nd 2008 by Doubleday (first published 2008)

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Author : Barbara Delinsky

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# From Reader Review The Secret Between Us for online ebook

## Jennifer says

A pleasant surprise. It wasn't challenging reading, but a good story that kept my interest. Would be good for a vacation book or beach book. Similar to Piccoul's style - but much better character development.

I'm not done yet, but enjoying the book. It's easy reading. I got the book from the publisher as part of a buzz campaign through BuzzAgent.com I've been telling people that I know are interested in this genre of books about this book as well as the author. I thought at first that I would find Delinsky's writing style similar to that of Jodi Piccoul. I've read several of her books and can say that with each one I've been disappointed. Her characters seem to fall flat for me. I didn't find myself liking them or hating them - no connection. Thankfully, I find Delinsky's character development to be much better. There are characters that I like and characters that I don't - what I look for is that they evoke some sort of emotion in me. So far a thumbs up and a star ahead of Piccoul. More to come when I finish.

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## Misty Vauble says

I was surprised at how much I enjoyed this but then I typically enjoy Delinsky's work. I'm not a parent except to the four legged variety of a child so I'm not sure Deborah's choices were right but I understood her reasoning. Grace I got perfectly and I felt for her. Deborah's dad worked my last nerve a good portion of the book but ultimately he learned something too. This may be closer to a 4.5 for me

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## Laurie says

Was expecting more from this book and couldn't relate to any of the characters. It seemed to jump around a bit with different story lines. I haven't given up on this author just not one of my favorites by her.

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## Mary says

As Deborah Monroe and her teenage daughter, Grace, are driving home from a party that Grace attended; the unthinkable happens. Their car is in an accident; striking a man who is running in the dark. Although sixteen-year-old Grace was the one at the wheel, Deborah sends her daughter home before the police arrive, determined to shoulder the blame for the accident herself.

Deborah's rash decision, made in an attempt to protect Grace, quickly takes on a life of its own. Her decision soon morphs into a deception, one that ultimately threatens the special bond between mother and daughter. In *The Secret Between Us*, Barbara Delinsky explores the limits of personal responsibility - responsibility of a mother to a daughter, of a daughter to a father, and of a husband to a wife.

Once again, Ms. Delinsky has delivered a riveting, superbly crafted family story. This book was absolutely

great. I find that Ms. Delinsky is wonderful at creating nuanced family relationships and dramatic plots. I do like reading books that deal with secrets and deceptions, and how such things can detrimentally affect the family dynamics. I give *The Secret Between Us* by Barbara Delinsky an A+!

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### **Lisa says**

Thanks Misty, for a great buddy read! Misty and I tend to like books that make us a weeeee bit crazy and want to yell at the characters (see our last read, *The Whole Golden World*, for more on that)!!! They don't always do the smartest or most sensible things, these characters. And that's why we love 'em: for the fist-shaking-factor :) Deborah's Dad and her ex-husband were both deplorable, but it was Deborah herself that made me the craziest, because she put up with all their shenanigans and NEVER stood up for herself! This made for an excellent buddy read. Barbara Delinsky's writing is very readable and this went by super fast. Just be prepared to get frustrated with this bunch of characters. If you ever do decide take on this book, it's best done with a like-minded buddy! :)

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### **Mackenzie says**

This book is the story of Deborah Monroe and her daughter, Grace. One night when Grace is driving home with her mother from her friend's house, a man comes hurtling in front of their car. It is raining heavily so visibility is far from good that night, because of this Deborah and Grace don't see the man until it's too late. Deborah, after finding out who the man is and making sure he isn't fatally injured, calls the cops and sends Grace home to take care of her brother, Dylan; which ultimately covers up Grace's involvement, as the driver, in the accident.

I enjoyed this book. I found that **The Secret Between Us** was a book based on lies and how they can affect people, adding guilt and pain to their lives and affecting their performance in daily tasks. The only thing I had a real problem with, was that I found the ending was tied up too well. Nothing was really left in the balance. Besides that, I really liked the characters. Grace is a teenage girl with wholly believable problems. Deborah, as a doctor, ex-wife, daughter, mother and sister has many problems she has to solve as well. Barbara Delinsky did a really good job on this book!

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### **Kandice says**

I found this story very weak and boring. Not worth my time writing a review from scratch, but here's my response to the synopsis on goodreads... The normal text is what GR had to say and my responses are in bold:

Deborah Monroe and her daughter, Grace, are driving home from a party when their car hits a man running in the dark. Grace was at the wheel, but Deborah sends her home before the police arrive, determined to shoulder the blame for the accident. Her decision then turns into a deception that takes on a life of its own and threatens the special bond between mother and daughter. "**Hey, this sounds really good, I think I'm going to enjoy this!**"

*The Secret Between Us* is an unforgettable ("**Oops a spelling error, they added 'un'.**") story about making

bad choices for the right reasons and the terrible consequences of a lie gone wrong. Once again, Barbara Delinsky has delivered a riveting study ("**I'm pretty sure that's an overstatement!**") of family and a superbly crafted ("**Spelling error #2, corrected to 'crappy'.**") novel, perfectly targeted to fans of provocative fiction. "**No comment!!!**"

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## Carole says

I was torn between giving this book 2 or 3 stars. *The Secret Between Us* seemed to be a decent book at first and moved forward fairly quickly, but the story wrapped up far too neatly and the main characters are too goody-goody. I'm not sure how to describe it, but the daughter is boo-hooing about not being held accountable for what she did wrong and about everyone giving her a pass on all her mistakes. I just find it hard to believe a teenager being this altruistic. The mother, Deborah, is also sickeningly perfect, wanting to make sure she takes care of everyone and everything involved with the accident. She never once appeared concerned about possibly being held accountable for the accident because she was just SO CONCERNED for the wife and family of the man who died. It just felt false. Her only so-called flaw, lying to protect her daughter, still seemed only to portray her as the pure, loving mother. One more issue - I find it VERY hard to believe that the brother of the man who died was so concerned about Deborah. His brother was just hit and killed by her car! It seemed he was only present in the story in order to reveal some of the problems of the man who died. (view spoiler)

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## Michele says

### "Expectations are a powerful motivational tool"

3.5 stars. *The Secret Between Us*, a novel by Barbara Delinsky, defines "a fast read." The writing is clearly the effort of a pro and flows from page to page with lots of dialog and little description or prolonged prose. The storytelling is first rate. I was riveted.

The main character, a woman named Barbara, is likeable and believable. She's a divorced mother of two, a small-town doctor. In the opening pages, she and her daughter, Grace, have a terrible accident, when their car hits a pedestrian on a dark, rainy night. The story unfolds from there, when Deborah takes the blame, even though her 15-year-old daughter was behind the wheel. Throughout the police report/investigation, this is the "secret" between them and it causes a myriad of complications. Probably the strongest message coming from these pages is about parent and child relationships, and how expectations can both help and hinder. It certainly made me think about my relevant relationships.

Deborah's sister, Jill, an independent bakery owner and somewhat of family black sheep, is likeable too. As for most of the other characters, I'm afraid I found them not only unlikable, but also contrived. The selfish ex-husband; the patriarchal--even cruel--father; the loopy, grieving widow; the kind-hearted chief of police; the philandering high-powered attorney and his pathetic wife/best friend of the protagonist; the brother of the accident victim, Tom McKenna, walking the tightrope between both sides of the issue; the accident victim himself, Grace's history teacher at the local high school; the visually impaired younger brother; and especially the teenaged daughter, Grace, all seemed to me like paper cutout dolls, with unsurprising words

and actions.

All these characters notwithstanding, the story was compelling, truly outlining how a seemingly normal life can change in an instant. Overall I'd say it was worth the read, reminding me of authors like Anita Shreve and Jodi Picoult.

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### **Laura says**

I have to say I've read better books by Barbara Delinsky. For some reason, although this was a reasonably interesting story, it felt a little overwrought to me, particularly since it only covered a two week span of time. There was just something about going from extreme stress and panic to everything neatly tied up in such a tidy fashion - all in two weeks - that annoyed me. I'm not sorry I read it, but I have come to the conclusion that Delinsky's best work, like that of authors before her (Stephen King comes to mind) was in her earlier writing years. I hope she proves me wrong with subsequent books.

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### **Misskey says**

I liked the premise of the book--daughter hits someone with car, mom says she did it. But I found the main character annoying and quite a doormat--I lost all sympathy for her when she showed up at the funeral of the man she hit (and didn't even know) and acted all hurt and surprised when the widow got upset and asked her to leave. Plus there was too much other stuff going on with the son's eyes and the jerk dad and the pregnant sister. Grace just seemed repetitive and I grew tired of her whining about everyone wanting her to be perfect. I just couldn't connect with any of the characters. Also, who commits suicide by throwing themselves in front of a car and assuming they will be injured enough to bleed to death? That's ridiculous.

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### **Terra says**

The Secret Between Us by Barbara Delinsky is truthfully painful. A good novel but with so much guilt that you really start to feel like it's you in the story. It's a can't put down book til the end so that you can see if things come out for better or worse.

Deborah Monroe is mom, daughter, sister, ex-wife, and prominent town doctor to a quiet little town in New England. Highly respected and loved, independent, honest to a fault has her life upturned by one little incident. Oh, is it little or bigger than she thinks.

Grace Monroe is a loving, athletic, brilliant, devoted teen who knows right from wrong but the one little unfortunate incident throws her into such an emotional turmoil that you sit and wonder how your own child would react to the same thing happening to her. The entire town knows this teen as truthfully honest and reliable almost to perfection which sets Grace up for emotional pain that is unimaginable.

The story brings into question what lengths we would go to as a parent in order to protect our children. It also questions our ability to handle one crisis following another as an adult especially in a small town where everyone knows everything about everyone. Can secrets truly be hidden in such a small community. Will one little deception tear a family apart not only from themselves but from all prying eyes. Can one selfish

person willing cause so much emotional pain and break the trust that has been here for generations. So many questions with too few answers.

The author is brilliant with the actual storyline. With living in Massachusetts myself I can actually visualize all the areas that the author takes us to. Even though this is fiction it could also be someone's real life story. It's something we say can't possibly happen to us but in all reality, "It only takes one time", and it could very well come to pass.

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### **Lizziet says**

Okay. I picked up this book because I was looking for a new author like Jodi Picoult. This book was a quick read but dragged at times. I kept reading because I was intrigued by the topic and the relationships. A daughter kills a man while driving with her mother on a rainy night. The mother does not correct the police when they assume that the mother was driving. Made me wonder if I would do the same. Also, it reminded us how a lie can impact your life and how the truth can set up free.

I could relate to some of the characters. Deborah was trying to be the perfect mother, child, daughter, doctor. We all wear masks for the people around us. Who do not want to disappoint our parents at any age. Parents have expectations of their children. What is the right balance between hope for a child and expectations.

Anger is such a big part of my life when things fail. The mother and daughter are both angry with the father for leaving. Sometimes you just have to let go of anger to get through life.

At the same time I was jealous of her sister who lived her life like she wanted to. She opened a bakery and made it work. She was a success by following her heart.

It was not a great book but I could relate to somethings.

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### **Lisa says**

Deborah Monroe and her daughter, Grace, are driving home from a party when their car hits a man running in the dark. Grace was at the wheel, but Deborah sends her home before the police arrive, determined to take responsibility for the accident. But that story takes on a life of its own and threatens to damage the whole family.

"The Secret Between Us" is an unforgettable story about making bad choices for the right reasons and the web of deceit that can spiral out of control

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### **Jaclyn says**

This book was my first introduction to Barbara Delinsky. My mom loaned it to me and said it was so good she lost sleep trying to finish it. Wow was she right. I could not put this book down! Like Jodi Picoult, Delinsky writes about family issues and weaves a compelling drama that pulls you in instantly and hooks you all the way to the end. However, Picoult likes to write about somewhat obscure issues, or highly

controversial topics, whereas Delinsky chooses topics that could easily happen to any of us at any given time. (Or at least that's what this one was)

The Secret Between Us is a story about a fateful night when Grace and her mom, Deborah, are driving home in the rain and hit a man. The decisions made that night haunt them for a long time afterward and nearly endanger a rare and special bond b/t this particular mother and daughter. I definitely recommend this book, and not just for the women out there. There is a definite message in this one that even seemingly innocent white lies can quickly snowball into something much bigger.

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