

APPENDIX I

BIOGRAPHY

Karen M. McManus is an acclaimed American author best known for her young adult thrillers. Born and raised in Massachusetts, McManus developed a love for storytelling at a young age. She pursued higher education at the College of the Holy Cross, earning a Bachelor of Arts in English, and later obtained a Master's degree in Journalism from Northeastern University. McManus's debut novel, *One of Us Is Lying* (2017), catapulted her to fame, becoming a New York Times bestseller. The novel, often described as a mix of *The Breakfast Club* and *Pretty Little Liars*.

Following the success of her first book, McManus released several more bestsellers. *Two Can Keep a Secret* (2019) continue her streak of suspenseful narratives, followed by *One of Us Is Next* (2020), a sequel to her debut. In 2021, she published *The Cousins*, further showcasing her talent for weaving intricate plots and engaging characters. In addition to her novels, McManus has received several accolades and nominations. *One of Us Is Lying* was nominated for the Goodreads Choice Award for Young Adult Fiction and won the 2018 YALSA Top Ten Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers. Her books have been translated into more than 40 languages, broadening her international reach and impact.

Beyond writing, McManus continues to engage with her readers through social media and book events, where she shares insights into her creative process and the development of her thrilling narratives. Her ability to craft compelling mysteries with relatable characters keeps her readers eagerly anticipating her next work, solidifying her place in contemporary young adult fiction.

APPENDIX II

SUMMARY OF THE NOVEL

One of Us Is Lying by Karen M. McManus is a gripping young adult mystery novel set at Bayview High School. The story begins when five students walk into detention: Bronwyn, the brain; Addy, the beauty; Nate, the criminal; Cooper, the athlete; and Simon, the outcast and creator of a notorious gossip app. During detention, Simon suffers a fatal allergic reaction, and it becomes clear that his death was not accidental.

Each of the four remaining students had a motive to kill Simon, as he was planning to reveal their deepest secrets through his app. Bronwyn had cheated on a test, Addy was unfaithful to her boyfriend, Nate was dealing drugs, and Cooper's secret could destroy his future. As the investigation unfolds, these secrets come to light, and the students are thrust into a media frenzy and police scrutiny. The novel expertly weaves together multiple perspectives, with each of the four main characters narrating their own chapters. This narrative structure allows readers to delve into their thoughts and feelings, creating a complex and multi-layered mystery. As tensions rise and relationships are tested, the students must work together to clear their names and find the true culprit.

Ultimately, it is revealed that Simon orchestrated his own death with the help of a co-conspirator to frame the others and gain notoriety. The shocking twist exposes the lengths to which people will go for attention and revenge, and it forces the characters to confront their own flaws and grow from their experiences. *One of Us Is Lying* is not just a mystery but also a commentary on the pressures faced by teenagers in the digital age. It explores themes of identity, loyalty, and the consequences of gossip and secrets. McManus's debut novel is a thrilling page-turner that keeps readers guessing until the very end.

