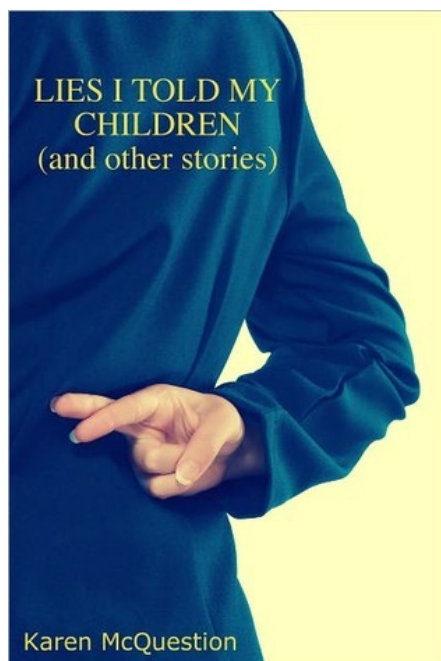




Lies I Told My Children

Karen McQuestion

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Lies I Told My Children Karen McQuestion

Karen McQuestion not only admits to having lied to her children, she lists it as one of her top secret parenting strategies. Some of her finest parenting moments, she recounts, have involved deception. On planes she's translated the garbled pilot's announcement to her advantage saying, "This plane won't ever land if you keep kicking the back of that seat!" and once introduced a new entrée to her fussiest eater by saying, "Honestly, we've had this before and you really liked it."

Among the 30 essays collected here (many previously published in the Chicago Tribune, Newsweek, the Christian Science Monitor, or broadcast on NPR's Lake Effect) are the author's account of her first time cooking Thanksgiving dinner for the in-laws, an identity mix-up at a Chinese restaurant, and a description of the most important place she visited while in Washington D.C.—the women's bathroom in the Department of Agriculture building. Throughout, McQuestion shares stories of her life and family with humor and heartwarming insights.

Lies I Told My Children Details

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From Reader Review Lies I Told My Children for online ebook

ABC says

Extremely fluffy and fast. She tries to be Erma Bombeck, but that's already been done.

I didn't like how she says that two of her three kids are adopted but then later says mean things about them. (Calls one adopted kid "the sullen one" and the other one "the moody one") She never says anything mean about her biological kid, I noticed.

Sandy says

It was a funny, easy read, but I quite literally took the title that it was going to be funny experiences that she experienced with her children. There were maybe two examples of this, but the rest of the book was just moments in her life and at times just random thoughts that left me questioning where did this come from?

Therese says

I loved this book! What strikes me is how real Karen is. Her life is like most moms, but the humor she puts into everyday life events makes me realize that there is a lot more humor in life than we often think! Superbly written! Looking forward to reading more from her.

Hayden says

This collection of essays/short stories was pretty hilarious. Karen McQuestion is a great mother, I'm sure. At least she has a sense of humor about the chaos that is raising children. And at least she compiled her tales into a book so other people could relate to and laugh at them as well.

UPDATE Most of these stories were pretty funny, although towards the end they got pretty mundane... But as far as 61 page collections of essays/short stories go, this one was a winner, I'd say. I kind of wish she'd found some way to connect it all and make it into a book ending with the successful flights from the nest of her children, because with a mom like her, I'm sure Charlie, Maria and Jack can't NOT be well-rounded, sensible, decent people. But I get it. Mothering is a busy job and she jots down these funny experiences when she gets a chance to come up for air. Props to Karen McQuestion.

Nenette says

A nice collection of mommy stories, more like a mommy blog of ordinary events that could easily be forgotten if not committed to memory, or in the case of the author, to print. My own mommy stories are all committed to memory, and just like this book, it's always good to go back and see how far our children have gone from their younger years.

Michelle says

Each and every one of these little essays/stories left me thinking "and... so what?". This book came across as more of a series of half-thought-out blog entries than something that should be published and sold. Not "bad", as such, but left me wanting more. Just not necessarily from this author.

Barb Van says

Just a bunch of random happenings in the authors life that are boring and mundane and no different than everyday life. I didn't even smile reading through these stories. It was a quick short read but still not worth the time.

Hawkgrrrl says

I must not be the target audience for this, but I did force myself to finish, like a person eating Lucky Charms eating the oat bits. The oat bits are fine, serviceable cereal, but obviously it's all about the marshmallow bits. There just weren't enough marshmallow bits here for me.

Charity says

With all of the great reviews and the amusing title, maybe I was expecting too much. It's not that it wasn't good, I just thought I'd be rolling with laughter and I wasn't. I thought I would totally relate as a parent, and I didn't very often. I thought I'd be anxious to read another book by the author and I'm not.

It was a quick read and enjoyable. I am just let down because I thought I'd be raving about this book once I finished reading it and I can't.

Ann (Noumena12) says

Definitely a book for people of a certain age...remember when TV went off the air, test patterns, etc. Have you tried talking to your kids about these concepts. Read this woman's account of those and more interactions with her children.

Lisa says

"What is this, an extended mommy blog?" I asked myself. Yes it was. Or, to be more accurate, a collection of essays written by a mother. I gave it two stars compared to other books, but for a book of this genre (extended mommy blogs, look it up) it was pretty good. AND good for the 99 cents I paid...from a gift card.

Thanks, Amazon!

Preston Lee says

I picked up a copy of Lies I Told My Children based on reviews praising the lovable autobiographical narratives of the author's family life. All the stories are told as anecdotes only several pages long, making this a quick and easy read. Indeed, the stories revolving around the theme of white lies for the better family good make one appreciate the naivety of the saying "never tell a lie". These are truly adoring, and come from a place of true honesty: a loving yet imperfect human's best attempts to provide for her children while still retaining her sanity.

The first third of the book sticks faithfully to the theme, but unfortunately drifts into a lala land of textual family slide shows too soon to be forgivable. The latter half essays are only sometimes cute minutiae of her daily life, covering relationships with the neighbors to the owner of the neighborhood Chinese restaurant. In other words, nothing to do with the enticing title via which I was lured into purchasing this. If it weren't for my completionist nature I would have put down the book after I noticed the topic of "Lies I Told my Children" run out of steam, roughly halfway through. (Given how the stories are organized, I'm sure the editor was aware of the issue and only somewhat accurate title.)

Recommendation: Only pick up the full version if you love hearing about other people's kid while getting a pedicure. Otherwise opt only for the first few stories or skip it completely.

Judy says

Karen McQuestion admits to having lied to her children as they were growing up and, upon reflection, I realize that I also lied to my children. Little things like making up the fortunes in their fortune cookies in those wonderful years before they could read. Of course, I was totally busted as their reading skills improved, but those were golden years. In 30 essays of just a few pages each, McQuestion details her life. Amusing, but I was a little disappointed. I thought that there would be some good laughs and what I ended up with were some smiles. Charming in an off-beat way.

Amanda says

It left me desiring more, however, it had its cute moments.

The intro and title suggested that it would be full of humorous advice from a mother who didn't take life too seriously. That was not the case. It seemed that when the opportunity to get interesting presented itself the chapter just ended.

Kara says

On Monday I was starting to feel the pressure of the Goodreads.com book goal I set myself. I had to finish the book I was reading and read two more to meet my goal and more importantly get my little profile badge.

On my quest to find my second to last book of the year, I dug into my extensive to read list and found a compilation of essays by an author I had read three times over the summer. It was short, looked funny, promised to be a quick read, and I already knew I liked Karen McQuestion.

What I wasn't expecting was how quickly this book read. While I didn't have a ton of time to read, I still finished it in 3 days.

McQuestion's essays were both funny and easy to relate to. Either they fit me or one of my girlfriends. I really enjoyed this little book!
