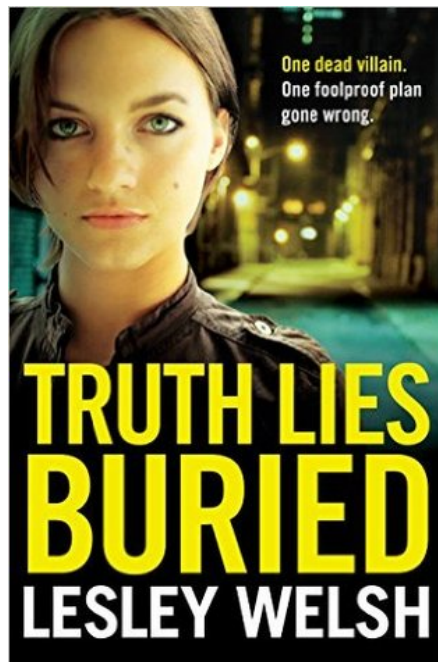




Truth Lies Buried

Lesley Welsh

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Truth Lies Buried Lesley Welsh

Drive. Keep quiet. Don't touch the boss's wife...Well, two out of three ain't bad.

Sam Riley leaves the army disillusioned and lonely, but alive, and finds work as a bouncer at an Essex nightclub. After defusing a particularly nasty situation, Sam is employed as a personal security guard for Monica, wife of local gangster Benny, and their young son, Brando. Seduced by glamorous, manipulative Monica, Sam is persuaded to help Benny find his way to a shallow woodland grave.

But even as Sam and partner Joe leave the crime scene, the plan takes an unforeseen twist, and everything begins to unravel; Monica disappears, leaving Sam to babysit Brando, while every Essex villain lines up to take over Benny's empire.

One killing follows another as Monica desperately clings to power, and Sam is forced to confront the ghosts of a traumatic youth in order to protect Brando from a similar fate.

Truth Lies Buried Details

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Author : Lesley Welsh

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From Reader Review Truth Lies Buried for online ebook

Zoe says

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I was lucky to receive this book from netgalley for an honest review.

WOW what a book..... from the first page you were dropped straight into the story and the action.

The story of Sam who starts as the murderer then the lover then the hunted..... There were so many storylines going on yet all connected and easy to keep up to and relate to.

The book was so well written that you were filled with so much action from start to finish. I personally will be looking out for this author when choosing my future reads.

Helen Lancaster Lancaster says

Enjoyable gangster book

Must say I enjoyed this book very much. There were so many bad guys in it didn't know who was double crossing who. Once I got in the groove of it and had all the characters sussed out it became a real story. Wont give away the end but my favourite characters get to live on. Happily ever after eh. Nice work? Lesley Welsh

Paul Brazill says

The plot of Truth Lies Buried twists and turns as tightly as a corkscrew. A gripping gangster novel with a fantastic protagonist. Like a cross between Cassavete's 'Gloria' and 'The Long Good Friday.'

Nik Morton says

First off, I like the clever title, juxtaposing Truth and Lies. The addition of Buried is made very clear at the outset when a local gangster is interred in a shallow grave, thanks to Sam Riley, ex-Army, who's doing it for a very potent reason. We're not privy to the fact that Sam is a woman until page 25, but I don't think this can be a spoiler as the cover features a woman: Samantha wants to spend the rest of her life with the deceased's wife, Monica. Unfortunately, Monica also has a son, Brando – 'Reservoir Pup', Sam calls him: 'just eleven years old and already a greedy, heartless little tosser.'

By now you should have a very strong flavour of the tone, the dry and dark humour of the book. To be savoured.

There are some great lines dropped in the narrative, too many to list here, but here are a few: ‘Carver’s voice always threw me, that high-pitched squeak emanating from his bulky body. Years before, a bullet in the throat had left him talking like a mouse on helium.’ Some more: ‘The Gangster, His Wife and The Lesbian.’ (p36); ‘...your knight in shining Armani,’ (p47); and ‘They say Orientals are inscrutable but they’ve got nothing on lawyers.’ (p80) Acute observation is evident, and couched in fine prose, for example: ‘Rubbish flew about like tattered birds...’ (p225)

Throughout, Welsh captures Sam’s voice to perfection, her emotions and strength of character, notably when she undergoes a transformation as she gets to know Brando, a great wise yet vulnerable character, eleven going on thirty. A number of chapters are third-person, and these enable the reader to get into the minds and under the skin of other characters, particularly the despicable Monica. Lenka is a fine surprise, too! As Sam says, ‘She really was something else.’ (p315)

To relate the storyline in any detail would be to spoil the discoveries along the way. For there’s a dark incident in Sam’s past that has poignant bearing on her present situation. Twists and turns in the plot kept me flipping the pages, whether that’s the good suspense, the cat-and-mouse with the DI, the confrontations with the other gangland members out to carve up Monica’s inheritance. There are many instances where the tension is raised in fraught moments.

Deaths lead to more deaths, and it all starts spinning out of control among the godless... The local gangsters have to contend with Chinese triads and Russian mafia, as well. I found the action scenes to be well-choreographed, tense and believable.

Sam is a rounded character, and opinionated, too, which is good; for example, her view of the PC crowd: ‘I loathe these people, the ones who have implanted these admonitory words in our brains. What kind of screwed-up Orwellian nightmare are we living in when a simple act of human kindness comes with cautionary, defensive and even reproachful strings attached?’ (p129)

Irony, pathos, it’s all here, and Welsh is superb on relationships – the good and the bad. ‘Maybe we are all haunted in one way or another. But some of us have more persistent ghosts.’ (p248)

I’d offer one caveat: if you’re averse to raw language, then don’t read gangster novels. Truth Lies Buried contains quite a lot of swearing; this is about raw gangster environment, after all, but it never came across as gratuitous, but character- and situation-driven. And of all the gangsters we meet, perhaps Monica the Moll is decidedly the worst!

As hinted at already, despite the grimness of gangland violence and threat, there’s plenty of humour, black and light. ‘He was straight from the Ugly Agency. Looking for an interesting character for a new film are you, Mr Spielberg? Want to frighten the living daylights out of the kiddies, do you? Then I know just the man for the part.’ (p314)

Welsh has created an intriguing and likeable heroine in Sam. ‘...Some people have clean hands but dirty soul. You have dirty hands but clean soul, I think.’ – (p382) It would be a shame if we were not to meet her again.

A brilliant novel that deserves to do well, giving the likes of Martina Cole a run for her ill-gotten gains.

Chris Steeden says

I'm not sure what it was about this book but I just could not get into it completely. The story is good enough and kept me wanting to know what will happen next so was it the writing that was the problem for me? It may have been. There was a lot of 'thought' speech from the lead protagonist which threw me sometimes. Did she really say that? No, she was only thinking it.

As I said the story was good and original and you can see a huge amount of effort has been put into the development but I felt the characters were one dimensional and, although, a lot happens it felt a little plodding. I did not get that whizz bang exhilaration you should get from these types of books. I'm not a critic in anyway so don't pay much attention to me. It is just how I found the book.

The set-up is that a gangster has been murdered and two other crime families are vying for his left-over assets which mainly amount to nightclubs but his wife is still alive and she has a lot of hate. A tangled web of paranoia, craziness, killing and drug trafficking Spaniards intent on revenge ensue as our hero, Sam, tries to keep herself and an 11-year-old boy alive. This is certainly not an easy task. Sounds exciting. Should be exciting. Shame it's not.

Vicki - I Love Reading says

I need to start this by saying a great big thank you to Tomas & Mercer and Netgalley for an ARC of this book. I'm so glad I read it.

?

?This book started off brilliantly, Lesley Welsh is a new author for me, and one I will certainly be watching out for.

?Right from the first few chapters we had action, and a few OMG moments. one of which I had to go back a few pages and re read to check I had read it right.

Brilliant opening. Grips you and drag's you right into the story line, leaving you wanting more, and needing to read on.

?Monica I decided early on was a cow, and she really got on my nerves, But Sam was just a brilliant character, A character I was rooting for, one that you just want everything to turn out good for them. I liked how Sam was left to baby sit Brando, Monica's son. And I liked the cheeky little shit, even though you didn't want to, to start with.

?Sam wasn't babysitting through choice, it just so happened that Sam ended up the only person home and had no choice but to look out for him, and as he starts out a proper little stuck up his own arse child, you soon see another side to him, when he is with Sam it's like he's just a normal child, and some of his protective walls come down. He turned into one of my favourite characters.

?Having a mother like Monica raising you would be enough to make any child turn into a brat.

?But I loved how we got to see another side of him.I just so didn't want this book to end. I could have read about Sam, and the other characters forever. I loved following them on one hell of a journey. There just seemed to be something going on at every turn, at one point I thought ok, well that concludes the story, when off it went again. Absolutely brilliantly written, with more twists than a bloody twister.

?An amazing book and well worth reading. But I really was gutted when it ended.

?Certainly an author to watch out for.

Jyne Christine Mills says

Truth Lies Buried by Lesley Welsh

Great holiday read. Plenty of action,a imams and children. And of course there is always a little romance. Good plot plenty of twists and turns.

kay elisabeth pritchard says

Brilliant

Loved this book.... A really good read.....
Would love to read more from this author...
A very easy read as well

Alexandra Coughlan says

Truth Lies Buried

Exciting, fast moving story and one not for the faint hearted. Plenty of action with quite a few shocks thrown in A good read.

Joshua says

Review based on ARC received from NetGalley:

Truth Lies Buried starts with the immediate aftermath of a murder and slowly reveals the protagonists past involvement with some of the less savory members of society who have gang/underworld ties. Sam left the army and in the course of working as a bodyguard for the spouse of an underworld club owner, begins an affair with the woman. Once it becomes apparent that the wife is the more dangerous of her foes, Sam risks everything to protect the dead mobster's son.

There are several twists regarding people who "help" Sam and it's never clear if there are any "good" guys in this novel. It's a fun read, but at times certain characters are too banal to really engross the reader.

sandy musser says

Good read

Intriguing characters kept me waiting to see who was killed next could really feel the person's personality I enjoyed this book

Gerald O'Connor says

I really enjoyed this book by Lesley Welsh. Set in Essex, we follow Sam Riley around the seedy underbelly of the south east of England as she tries to weave her way through the criminal underworld and her ex-boss who is trying to lynch her. What I particularly loved about this one was the way Welsh creates characters such as Sam and Brando who are both good and bad in their own particular way. Nearly every character came across as real people with all the complexities and mood swings you'd expect to find in the criminal side of life. Except for her boss, Monica, who was irredeemable the whole way through, and, to my mind anyway, the perfect antagonist for Sam's more virtuous side. All in all, this was a stonking good read. From the first few pages, when we meet Sam burying a body, I sensed I was in for a page-turning crime fest, and it didn't disappoint. There wasn't a beat missed from there right through to the end. Recommend for fans of hard-boiled noir.

Doris L. says

Samantha Riley is trouble personified. No matter what she does or where she goes trouble is sure to follow, or already be there. She has never really cared, just handled trouble as she saw fit, and pretty much come out of situations okay, or at least alive. Then she becomes involved with Monica. Monica who has everything any woman would want or need. A rich husband and an adorable eleven year old son, Brando. At the end of the day selfishness will get you no where but death.

All Sam wants now is to protect the young Brando with her very life. After a life of no family and not really knowing love, she has found it in the eyes of a young boy who needs her protection as much as she needs him. Part mystery, love story, plenty if intrigue that will keep you guessing till the very end. 5 Stars

Bookish Enchantment says

I am quite disappointed with this book. It promised so much but the writing style pulled up short. I can see that the author really wanted this to be an edge of your seat thriller but she missed her mark. I was glad to finish.

Carl R. says

Lesley Welsh takes us through the title burial right away. Benny Cohen is the hastily-interred corpse. Sam(antha) Riley, in league with her old friend, Joe, as well as her employer (and lover), Monica Cohen, wife of the victim, are the perps. Sam, it turns out is also the protagonist and the narrator of most of the book's key chapters. She's a hard-ass lady with hard-ass background--soldier, bouncer, and more. But she's got heart and tender side which makes her as vulnerable as it does admirable and likable while she goes about trying to clean up the mess she helps create in the opening pages.

Benny Cohen, we soon understand, was an ugly wretch of a gangster who deserved elimination. We also soon understand that he left behind a son who knows and understands far more about real cops and robbers and human nature than any eleven-year-old should. We soon understand as well that Benny left behind a host

of enemies who will soon line up to fill the power vacuum he leaves behind. Not to mention the money.

Between all this and the cops she must fend off, Welsh has given Samantha Riley a Herculean stack of labors. And those are just the obvious ones. As the action unfolds, secrets, including a few of Sam's own, jump out of the graves, from behind the arras, and from under the beds. Assaults and surprises leap at her--and the reader--from all directions. And the language, as with the best crime writers like Chandler, does as much as the plot to keep things moving and suspenseful. Witness Sam at the funeral of the man she's just whacked:

I was uncomfortable with the tradition of mourners heaving a spadeful of dirt on the coffin. . . [H]aving already buried the guy once, I had no appetite for taking part in the rerun.

Even in such a whirlwind of complications, none of them seem contrived, as so often is the case with crime novelists who strain to keep the trivial seem significant just to pretend things are happening. Welsh's events all grow out of the action quite naturally. Just as important as the action--again, as in the best crime novels--the primary complications emerge from the character and morality issues of this much-more-than-a-thriller.

I can promise You won't find a better read than The Truth Lies Buried for many a moon.