



## Liars Anonymous

*Louise Ure*

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**“Hands On Emergency. This is Jessie. Is there an emergency in the vehicle?”**

Roadside Assistance Operator, Jessie Dancing, knows what it's like to take a life, and she's trying to put that memory behind her. But when the call comes in from real estate tycoon Darren Markson, she thinks she hears him being killed while she's on the phone with him. This can't be, but she knows the world of violence and death is never far away. Jessie travels from Phoenix to her hometown of Tucson to let Markson's wife hear that last communication from her husband. But according to Emily he's very much alive...

## **Liars Anonymous Details**

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Author : Louise Ure

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## From Reader Review Liars Anonymous for online ebook

### Robin says

This was my first title by Ure, who has already won a Shamus award. I love the way she puts words together, with precision, passion and beauty. Probably this isn't a book for everyone, as it's very very dark - I think the true definition of noir is not only are you not so sure about all of the characters but the main character as well - and the ending is rough. In it Jessie Dancer, a phone operator for an Onstar type service, gets a call from a client who (it sounds like) is being assaulted in the far away desert, where she can do nothing to help. She alerts the police but there's nothing there when they go to look for the car and the man driving it. Jessie gets drawn further and further into the man's disappearance, and at the same time her own past comes out in bits and pieces, and as a reader you are forced to make up your mind about her behavior in the past. This book is impossible to put down or to forget.

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### Joy says

Interesting first book by the author. A roadside-assistance operator is asked to follow up on a call by giving info directly to the wife of the caller, which leads to a major adventure in solving a crime. I thought the book was an interesting idea, but too much travel to Mexico and relationships that were not really clear. Always good quotes: "Pain is just weakness leaving the body." "Same circus, different clowns." Francis Bacon: "A man that studies revenge keeps his own wounds green." Alfred Hitchcock: "Revenge is sweet and not fattening."

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### Laren says

Our protagonist is an operator for a vehicle contact system (much like On-call) who receives an odd call from a car just involved in a hit-and-run. When the police are dispatched to the scene, they find no one there. The wife of the car's owner claims that it isn't her husband's voice on the recording of the call, and that he is alive and well on a business trip. But our operator heard evidence of a possible kidnapping and doesn't quite believe the wife so she launches her own investigation.

Complicating the story is the fact that she was once on trial for murder and was acquitted. Her story is interwoven with the plot to help the reader understand her actions better, but also to cause contemplation on the reasons people lie and whether or not breaking the law can ever be acceptable. Unfortunately both the law breaker and the victim(s) in the main plot were not well developed enough to make me care whether or not the case was solved, and the main character development made me question if I even really bought our main character caring either. The main plot summarized in the book flap appeared to simply be a vehicle for our operator to take her personal journey. That's not really a problem, but I hate it when a story is misrepresented as a mystery when it is really a regular novel in disguise.

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### Jerry King says

### **Ann says**

Ugh it started out interesting, but then I couldn't wait for it to end.

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### **Susan says**

Jessie Dancing is forced to return to Tucson, which she fled after she was acquitted of murder. But Jessie really killed a man, for reasons she thought sufficient. Her father believed her innocent plea, but her cold, unforgiving mother knew that she was guilty. Jessie has punished herself with grueling workouts, with meaningless sex, with pain. She's on the edge of another murder, with a policeman who worked her last case sure she's guilty again. Jessie should leave, but she knows that a child is in danger, and she can't let that go by. Then she learns something that turns her life upside down. Well-written, exciting, suspenseful, but probably a little hard-core for my reading tastes.

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### **Alex says**

I loved almost everything about this book. The Southwestern setting is vivid, the protagonist is appealingly flawed, and the supporting characters are well drawn. The plot is twisty, surprising, and satisfying. The writing is good and there are some strong images, such as the Day of the Dead details and some of the borderland ephemera. I would quibble with a few plot points, but not so much that I didn't thoroughly enjoy the narrative. Louise Ure is an author to recommend to others and to seek out yourself.

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### **Nikki says**

The relatively small number of stars for this book does not reflect the quality of the writing, the plot, the setting or the characterization, but only that I guess it was just a bit too dark for me. As in *The Fault Tree*, Ure has a protagonist with a lot of issues, and as the book goes on more and more is revealed. The initial event is a very up-to-the-minute one, in which protagonist Jessie, who is an operator with a service similar to GM's OnStar, gets a call about a car accident that quickly turns into either an assault or a murder. The incident ends up taking her back from Phoenix to Tucson, where some very disturbing incidents in her past took place. If you can stand a fair amount of violence and a really messed-up protagonist, this would be a good book for you.

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### **Jan says**

Fantastically flawed characters, great plotting and current elements of technology keep this story moving and the reader involved. I'll definitely look for the first two novels Ure wrote.

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## Fictionophile says

Just finished reading “Liars Anonymous”, a book that is not my type of novel at all. However, I surprised myself by liking it a lot! Despite myself!

The setting was southern Arizona and the Mexican-American border area. I usually prefer novels set in the United Kingdom or the Eastern U.S. or Canada.

The novel featured Jessie Dancing, a hard-bodied ex-con complete with tattoos and steel-toed shoes. Not my usual protagonist of choice.

The novel is a stand-alone work. I usually read series.

The premise is what caught me.

Jessie Dancing is a roadside-assistance operator who receives a call from a motorist directly after he was rear-ended and his air-bag deployed. Over the open phone line, she hears what she thinks is the motorist being beaten and killed. She then of course calls the police. However... the police have not always been her friend. Also, the wife of the motorist wants Jessie to play her the tape of the incident. Later the wife claims her husband contacted her and he is alive and well and away on a business trip.

Through her rekindled contact with the police, the company she works for finds out that she is not who she said she was, and is an ex-con living under an assumed name. They fire her. Meanwhile, the house-sitting company she has business with also finds out her circumstances and tell her she must leave the house she has been living in....

Homeless, jobless, Jessie decides that when things just don't add up, her quest for justice demands that she investigate the matter herself.

What results is a suspenseful roller-coaster ride of danger and violence.

Throw in some illegal human smuggling, some family drama, and a new love interest, and her life is fuller than she wanted it to be.

I'll remember Jessie Dancing for quite some time.

The ending of “Liars Anonymous” was not what I expected.

Though having said that, it was satisfying, unpredictable, but also believable.

Louise Ure - Job well done!

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## Maddy says

PROTAGONIST: Jessie Dancer

SETTING: Arizona

SERIES: Standalone

RATING: 4.0

She's a murderer. Even though judged innocent in a court of law, Jessie Dancing knows that she killed Walter Racine, and for the best of reasons—he had abused one of her friends as a child and was now poised to do the same to her friend's daughter. She's trying to put her life back together and is working as a Roadside Assistance Operator in Phoenix. But then she gets the call that changes her life, that brings her back to the abyss that she has been trying to move away from.

A typical roadside assistance call involves a vehicle that is disabled or has been in an accident. Darren Markson, a real estate tycoon from the Tucson area, is calling in because his car has been rear ended. After he has finished speaking, Jessie hears signs of a struggle and fears that Markson has been killed. The police disagree, and Jessie decides to go to Tucson, her former home town, to let Markson's wife know about his last conversation. Strangely, his wife insists that she just heard from him and that he is very much alive.

Jessie can't let it go, even more so when she goes to the crash site and meets a young woman there who is later killed. There must be a connection—did Felicia know something about what happened to Markson? Her Mexican boyfriend,

Carlos Ochoa, has disappeared. All these doings add up to a whole lot of unsolved mysteries. Aided by Carlos's brother, Guillermo, Jessie soldiers on, despite the fact that she is a prime suspect in the eyes of the authorities.

Jessie is a complicated character, very vulnerable and very hard at the same time. She's felt like an outsider ever since she's found out that she was adopted, a fact that explains the cold treatment by her mother as compared to her six siblings. She's become a consummate liar, a behavior that grew out of a need for self preservation in her family life. I had to admire her fierce loyalty while bemoaning some of the choices that she made.

Liars Anonymous is full of exciting scenes, with one of the best being a border crossing by Jessie and Guillermo. The book ends with an act of retribution that was totally unexpected; in reality, I had some issues with what transpired even while understanding the roots of the action. Despite that, Liars Anonymous strongly resonated with me. The moral ambiguity surrounding Jessie coupled with a strong and action-filled plot led to a very pleasurable reading experience.

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### **Patty says**

This was a DNF for me. I wasn't crazy about the premise and then made the mistake of reading part of a review. The review confirmed my belief that I wasn't going to enjoy this book, so I decided to just quit. Have too many other things to read to bother with ones I won't enjoy.

I read Louise Ure's first three books and enjoyed them tremendously, so I think it was the subject matter, not the writing style. In fact, I could finish this based on how she pulls people along, I just don't think I would enjoy the trip.

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### **Dara S. says**

This book had some different twists from things I usually read. I enjoyed it. The hot, dry setting of Arizona really came through in the writing.

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## **Kay Wright says**

The premise is intriguing; an OnStar operator hears a murder and gets involved when the wife wants to meet with her to listen to the tapes. Great beginning with an interesting heroine that keeps you hooked for most of the book, incipient romance, improbable coincidences, we can live with those if the puzzle is strong. Ure has not developed a series around a single character so all bets are off on what happens to all the characters including the heroine. It keeps you interested, allows the story to go where it needs to, but prevents the reader from forming a deeper attachment to her. Not badly written but not gripping. Will I read more Ure? Probably not

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## **Kathleen Hagen says**

Liars Anonymous, by Louise Ure, talking book borrowed from National Library Service for the Blind.  
Grade B.

Jessie Dancing is a woman who finally found out as an adult that she was adopted, and that once her parents had children, her mother wasn't interested in her anymore. She was a person who put justice for her friends first. Her friend Katherine had apparently been abused by her uncle and she was afraid Katherine's daughter would be abused as well. So Jessie took care of it by killing the uncle. She got off with a "not guilty" verdict, which isn't the same as being innocent, and one policeman in particular was obsessed with getting her convicted of something even though she couldn't be tried for the murder again. Jessie was now working for an emergency road service. A call came in where a man had an emergency, which seemingly resulted in a fight which she could hear on the computer. But when the police came, there was no body, and when Jessie went to tell his wife, she was told that there was a mistake, the car had been stolen and her husband was still alive. But Jessie didn't believe it and started her own investigation, which brought her into contact with a whole gang of persons involved in kidnapping the children of illegal aliens and selling them. While still involved in investigating this crime, she learns that the information about the bause of her friend from the first crime, might be false. This is an interesting book. I didn't like Jessie much and didn't really understand her until the end, partly because things were revealed so slowly that I thought I had missed something.

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