



Lies and Omissions

Francine Pascal

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For Jessica and Elizabeth, the sweet life begins at 30...

Three years after the events of Sweet Valley Confidential, Elizabeth and Jessica Wakefield are back in Sweet Valley and inseparable once more. But Jessica, now a mother, finds her marriage to Todd hanging by a thread. Meanwhile, Lila Fowler, reality TV star extraordinaire, embarks on a risky scheme that could win her fame but cost her everything. And the scandal rocking Sweet Valley deepens for Elizabeth and Bruce, who find themselves at odds when loyalty conflicts with the need for the truth. The Sweet Life #2: Lies and Omissions picks up right where the first episode leaves off, and the stakes get even higher!

Lies and Omissions Details

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From Reader Review Lies and Omissions for online ebook

Fran says

These are entertaining in a brainless, need something easy to read when not feeling well, way.

I'm not going to bother recapping the plot. I just want to say how, in an odd way, these actually seem to be less ridiculous and trying to be more realistic than their High School counterparts. Maybe that's just because they're being written now, and not in the 80s/90s. Probably. They're still trashy and shallow, but it's like they're trying to be less trashy and shallow.

This 2nd part of the serial contains more references back to the SVH series than part 1 did. Which is probably fun if you remember all the details of the SVH series. I never read that many of them (I read more SV Twins, and SV University), but I read enough to get the references.

These serials are actually making me want to source 2nd hand copies of SVH books and read them! I always did regret selling off my copy of Double Love (it was parental pressure!).

Victoria says

This second serial book picks up right where The Sweet Life #1: A Sweet Valley Confidential E-Serial leaves off. It is a lot shorter, and a much faster read - especially considering the various cliffhangers that it ends on. And while the pairings amongst the key characters are not ones that I would have selected, so I don't feel invested in their relationships working out, I am definitely excited to see what happens next! I am now officially hooked and looking forward to what next week will bring to these soap operatic plots! This entire set up of weekly releases of short novels reinforces the way the original books were released, so this just feels like a much more authentic continuation of the series!

Selina says

While I still love the Wakefield twins, this melodrama strikes me as too similar to fanfiction. Will I stop reading the rest of the mini books? Absolutely not! But does it mean that I am really enjoying them? Nope. Elizabeth is really annoying me with her do-gooder and flipflopping ways. The only bits I like are about Todd and Jessica. That random chapter about Steven and his partner Aaron was seemingly out of left field. I'm sure it will come into play again soon. And poor Ken and Lila... but mostly Ken.

kylajaclyn says

Welcome to "Refreshing Continuity" or SVC #2, "Lies and Omissions." Everyone's lying in this book, ya'll.

Guys and dolls, it has been quite a Sweet Valley-filled day! I would say that my head is spinning, but I predicted a return to form for all of the characters. I was not disappointed, since the ghostwriter(s) is/are

back! I don't think I've ever been so excited to say those words. No more "like, totally, omg" this or that. Thank heavens someone told Francine to put a sock in it. Sheesh. Once again, DO NOT READ ON IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE SPOILED.

Some minor(ish) characters get chapters in this that didn't appear in SVC #1. Let's recap them first, shall we?

Annie Whitman's secret: She's divorced from her high school sweetheart, Charlie Markus. Okay, not really a secret, but the fact that he turned out to only like her when he thought he was the one saving her is something I'm sure she'd rather keep on the downlow. Today Annie has become a mighty fine defense lawyer. How convenient that Bruce suddenly needs a whole lot of defending. Jessica texts Annie while she's in court, and (continuity!) Annie starts reminiscing of those days when Jessica hated her so much she would do anything to keep her off the cheerleading squad... including driving her to suicide, but Annie conveniently leaves that part out of her reminiscing. She does mention that spending her formative years defending her reputation as Easy Annie has made it easier for her to defend hardened criminals (or celebrities, as the case may be) these days. She knew she was done with Charlie when she found him writing one of his novels about her and calling her those awful names from her high school days. Peace out, Markus. Whitman's now making bank! She is also now the defender of Bruce Patman's good name.

Caroline Pearce's secret: She is still seeking revenge on Jessica & Elizabeth for being a perfect size six. Well, aren't we all? It's been shoved down our throats that not one person in Sweet Valley ISN'T jealous of those two. Caroline gives us her woe is me speech about growing up "chunky" two doors down from the Wakefield twins. Instead of cultivating a fabulous life that the twins could be jealous of, Caroline is instead wreaking havoc on Jess & Liz with her gossip. She has the perfect piece of fodder this time when she is sent a picture of Jessica leaning on Liam's shoulder, drunk, right before walking into his hotel room. Tsk tsk. Nothing is secret these days. Caroline tee-hees for a bit and then immediately posts the information and the picture on her blog. She sends the e-mail straight to Todd for good measure.

Steven Wakefield's secret: Well, he's still a homosexual, and it doesn't make any sense. Not the being a homosexual part, the STEVEN being a homosexual part. Anyway, he and Aaron Dallas recently had a baby girl, Emma, via a surrogate. There is a bit of trouble in paradise concerning child-rearing. Steven has grown up with two batshit crazy twin sisters, and he is looking to NOT raise a girl as crazy as them. This is possibly the smartest thought he has ever had. Emma is supposed to sleep in her crib in her pink palace. That's what Steven would prefer. But Aaron coddles her, and Emma spends every moment of every day in someone's arms. There is a perfect moment when Steven asks Aaron if he wants Emma to grow up to be a sociopath. Before I even read the next line, my immediate thought was: just like Jessica! And, lo and behold, that was the next sentence!! Steven recalls that Jessica was rarely ever in her crib and was constantly coddled. Emma cries and cries if she is left alone. Steven, being the smart guy that he is, sees that they are raising another Jessica Wakefield. He's also tired of not getting any sleep because Emma is always in their bed. He doesn't want to roll over on the baby and cause SIDS. So far, he seems to have more concern for his child than Jessica. Anyway, we don't hear much from Aaron's point of view. They both have to concede that the baby is the one who is in charge. Bad news, fellas.

Now on to the biggies! ...

Lila Fowler's secret: She's pregnant... but not really. But, hey, don't tell that to Ken or her fellow Housewives! Now that Ken got a backbone and really left her in the last book, Lila sees that she respects him and loves him. Or, in Lila's case, something bordering on love. We open the book with her trying to come up with a plan with Jessica to win their husbands back. They talk around each other, as usual, which is a shame, because if they had actually talked TO each other they might have arrived at better conclusions. Though who

am I kidding? For these two, truth is never an option. Lila first decides that she will visit Ken the next day and show off her, um, assets, because he can never resist those. She goes full out and parades through the locker room knowing that he will never, ever reject her. Except that he's had it with these crazy Sweet Valley chicks and their self-absorbed shenanigans, so he bails the moment she comes into view. Lila is momentarily distracted by a camera, but she ultimately chases after Ken. She follows him to the parking lot where she sees him at his car... with Ashley Morgan, she of the size 12 figure from SVC #1. Lila pushes her out of the way and tries to woo Ken with her assets, but he's not really interested in boobies right now. Not understanding how she could have just tried and failed to bring sexy back, Lila changes tactics. She tells Ken that she doesn't want them to be over. He actually gives a pretty balls to the wall speech that ends with "I'm done with you." That sounds pretty final. It would be, were we not dealing with Lila Fowler. As soon as he drives away, she spots a pregnant woman waddling to her car. Bingo! Plan B. She gathers the Housewife ladies for the camera the next day to let the bomb drop: she's losing Ken to Ashley. And she's pregnant. It should be noted that earlier in the e-serial Lila said that she didn't want kids now or ever. Ha!

Jessica Wakefield's secret: She slept with Liam O'Connor and, as I predicted, has no intentions of telling Todd. Todd is an old-fashioned asshole who believes that a woman shouldn't work for a living. He and Jessica have been separated due to Jessica's choice of work over family. Jessica knows she only has one hope of getting Todd back: quitting her job. She does quit, and then rewards herself for quitting by not telling Todd what happened with Liam. From strong, hard-working wife and mother to lazy Jess with no conscience all in several weeks! Jessica Wakefield, welcome back! We've missed you so much. Jessica's decision makes me very angry for very obvious reasons. Todd condoning it makes me even angrier. Liz thinks about talking her out of it, but realizes that she can't step in due to her past involvement with Todd. I think she's right and unfortunately it makes her unable to help in a lot of situations. However, I think we're all relieved to get a break from meddling Liz. Jess & Todd plan a dinner date where she will tell him that she is focusing on her family from now on. It's the restaurant at which he proposed. They have a wonderful meal, and Todd is sickeningly ecstatic that he has finally tamed the beast that is his wife. However, as soon as Jessica runs to the bathroom, the e-mail from Caroline pops up on Todd's phone. AngryPunchTodd immediately comes to life, and he remembers that instead of marrying the Good Wife, he actually married a sociopathic cunt who drives people to suicide and omits matters of great importance in order to get her way. Understandably furious (though he's still a douche!), Todd storms out of the restaurant. Jessica comes back and is rather confused at his abrupt disappearance... until she sees Caroline's blog. Ruh roh.

Elizabeth Wakefield's secret: She's a liar to everyone. She has found the intern that accused Bruce of rape, but she hasn't told him. She has moved the intern, Robin Platt, out of her home and into a home under her (Elizabeth's) name. She's lying to Robin about who she is as well, telling her that she's a therapist named Laura Christer. Liz is still plagued by the mounting evidence against Bruce. And, continuity time!, she FINALLY remembers about the motorcycle accident in high school (Dear Sister, #7), after which she was in a temporary Jess-like coma that had her flirting with Bruce who then tried to rape her. Bruce recalls it in his flashbacks too. They all ask themselves if they were just stupid teenagers. Well, Liz asks herself that. Bruce tells himself he WAS just a stupid teenager. No, you were an attempted rapist. You still are. And now you're being accused of it again. Karma's a bitch, and you should have paid more attention to Justin Timberlake. What goes around comes around! Liz continues to snoop around for more information on Robin and/or Bruce and what happened that night at the Charm Club. She goes to a previous employer of Robin's, and he corroborates Robin's story so far. That night Liz refuses Bruce's pleas to come home because he really needs her. Awww. I totally know what that's like... that's the only reason I'm on Bruce's side right now. That, and I want to believe he's changed, though he won't acknowledge he was ever a rapist in the first place. Meanwhile, Bruce is sick of waiting for Liz to find the intern. He hires a private investigator who tells Bruce to meet him at a bar because he has big information. He tells Bruce that the girl's name is Robin and shows him a picture of her house with her address. Now it's time for the old Bruce to come back and join the

old/new Lila, o/n Jess, and o/n Liz. He is heavy with alcohol and decides that right now would be a perfect time to confront Robin and ask her why she is ruining his life. He goes up to the house and, I kid you not, starts banging on the windows and yelling at her through the door. He cracks a window in his quest to intimidate her (because that worked out real well for you before, buddy). Even though Liz is across town with Robin Platt in her new location, imagine my surprise when there really IS a blonde-haired Robin Platt at this location who comes to the door and watches Bruce get arrested by the cops. He can't understand why they aren't arresting HER. Must be the alcohol. What a cliffhanger! Forget what the arrest means for Liz and Bruce - I'm way more interested in who the REAL Robin Platt is.

Maybe she's not Robin Platt at all. Maybe she's Margo or Nora Black in a new disguise? Fingers crossed, ya'll, until next week!!

Melyssa Dawn Michaels says

the only way this story works for me is if I look at the characters as separate from the ones I grew up loving. this is not the sweet valley I know and love but I keep trying with these books because I want it to be. I still believe right now that they should have left this future sweet valley stuff alone. it was better the way it was.

Kelsey says

Well I couldn't resist. In the same way I sometimes get sucked into really bad television you know is really bad, I get a little sucked into the Sweet Life. I sometimes think about all the much more productive and enlightening things I could be doing with my life, the same way I think about those things if I happen to be on the couch watching the newest reality show unfold before me with a mix of horror and disgust at the show and also annoyance at myself for watching 20 minutes of it before changing the channel, or getting off the couch.

The book continues on the same path of attempts at twists and turns that we all see coming because they follow the classic Sweet Valley formula- but that's why I love it. The classic Sweet Valley formula is familiar and so easy to follow. I read these when I have down time at work and its perfect because I'm often interrupted (I mean I am work, so when someone wants me to actually do work, I drop the book and do it) and its so easy to pick back up and remember where I was at before. I still feel the warm nostalgia for the books and think back the hours I spent reading them as kids. I love that old characters come up making cameos, like "Easy Annie," and its fun to see how they've turned out. Despite the poor writing and even story telling, I'm guessing I'll be reading all the books in this serial.

Melinda Elizabeth says

Lies and Omissions is the second instalment of 'The Sweet Life' e-serial series that Francine Pascall released to catch up fans of the 'Sweet Valley' Wakefield sisters.

Everyone in Sweet Valley has some newsworthy secret that that don't want anyone to know about. There's 'easy Annie' (oh, who could forget her!), Lila, who manages to one up herself with her scheming to create a lie so big that the Real Housewives crew following her around doesn't catch on and sniffs fantastic ratings in their future. And of course, Jessica is lying to everyone about her past with Liam (who I'm sure is going to

be some weird stalker psychopath by the end of this series) and Elizabeth, who is lying to Bruce about believing his story.

This short instalment allows us to get right in there with the lies, and watch as the truth is revealed in that pearl clutching outrage that Pascall is so known for.

Sara says

The second installment of the *Sweet Life* e-serial was every bit as awesome as the first! And, just as the pre-release buzz promised, the end left me breathlessly wanting me. I need the next part to be out NOW - I can't wait another week!

More characters from Sweet Valley High return in this installment, namely Annie Whitman, and both Steve Wakefield and Aaron Dallas make longer appearances than they did in the first book. Todd's still a complete moron and has yet to punch people like he did in high school, but I can only hope that later installments feature this.

Mainly, I'm just loving the continuity in this series with regards to the Sweet Valley High series. The twins' gold lavaliere is mentioned (they're still wearing them!), Bruce being a jerk in high school is mentioned, Liz meddles like there's no tomorrow and becomes everyone's confidant, and Lila and Jessica are scheming as usual. I especially loved a scene where Lila and Jessica are trying to talk to each other about their problems but are both so self-involved that they're talking *past* each other, not *with* each other. And of course there's an awesome note that Steven's greatest fear is having his daughter turn out as spoiled as Jessica.

My only complaint is that this was too short! I know it's a novella, but still... I want more! I suppose I could also complain that the drama is ridiculous, but why would I do that when it kept me glued to the pages?

Bree says

Why do they keep making them cliffhangers? I'll never be able to stop reading this crap. My brain is rotting. Help. I will say that the writing in this one is slightly better. And calling the books episodes is right on. It's like the book version of crappy TV. Guess I'm in it for the long haul.

Jenna says

I am a little disappointed that the author decided to omit events from the SVU series, but I'm rather forgiving. These books are once again making me addicted to everything about them. It also may help that I grew up obsessed with the series. This one finds me really not liking Bruce Patman anymore and that's too bad because at first I was really enjoying the new Bruce. Alas... onward to the next book to see if he's actually innocent or my instincts are right and he's still a snotty loser who got out of control with booze...

Cheryl says

The Sweet Life: Lies and Omissions book two continues with Jessica, Todd, Elizabeth, Bruce, Lila and Ken. In this book, readers find that Jessica and Todd's relationship is on the rocks still. Jessica has made a big mistake. She slept with Liam O'Connor. Jessica figures though that it was a one time thing and as long as Todd does not find out, she can make things right and get her family back together.

Elizabeth has found Robin Platt. She is the intern that is accusing Bruce of sleeping with her. Once Elizabeth hears Robin's story, Elizabeth starts having doubts about Bruce's innocences. Especially, when Bruce's story has some holes in his story. With Elizabeth wanting to protect Robin, her and her relationship with Bruce becomes strained.

Lila is determined to win back her husband, Ken Matthews. She will not let some other housewife have her husband. Steven Wakefield and his partner, Aaron are adjusting to their life together with their baby girl, Emma.

Caroline Pearce is Sweet Valley's resident bitch. This is why when she learns that Jessica and Liam slept together. She can not wait to spill the beans on this juicy gossip.

First off, I like the concept of this mini series of books. It is like reading about a soap opera. With the old Sweet Valley books, the twins did find themselves in trouble but nothing that they could not deal with and usually by the end of the book, everything was back to normal. Not this time. Grown up Elizabeth and Jessica have to deal with the real world.

Jessica is her usual self. She gives into temptation too easy and falls into bed with Liam. Still not too sure about her and Todd together. While, I know Elizabeth and Todd probably would not have lasted, I still can not picture Jessica and Todd as a couple who have a son. Todd has trust issues with Jessica. I can not blame him.

There is no change with Elizabeth either. She falls for Robin's story too easily. Not to say that maybe it is true but if she really loves Bruce like she says she does, then she would have his side until she learns the truth. Also, Lila is acting like a spoiled brat. She has a great husband in Ken but she of course can not see it until it is too late.

Steven and Aaron make a nice couple with their daughter Emma. However, their story did not really help add anything to the main story line.

I am getting into this series more and more. I am hooked. This series is a guilty pleasure without all the calories. Can't wait to see what craziness happens in book three.

Marilyn says

I enjoyed it!

But it was REALLY SHORT.

I read it in less than an hour!!

Can't wait for the next one to come out next sunday - July 22... I've been following 'the twins' since 1990, and I'm finding it hard to stop!

Paula Phillips says

At the end of book #1 , we read as Todd and Jessica's marriage was on the rocks as new reporter Sarah tried to steal Todd , Bruce Patman was accused of rape and Elizabeth ever the reporter went out to investigate and Lila scored a role of a new hit reality show "True Housewives of Sweet Valley" but on the show Lila badmouthed husband Ken and now he has walked out.

It seems that with relationships that the three girls of Sweet Valley High aren't having much luck and seemly enough it looks like it's their careers that have put them where they are today. Jessica still in love with Todd discovers through the rumour mill that he has slept with Sarah decides to get a little payback of her own and ends up sleeping with Liam who has his eyes set on Jessica. When the truth of Todd and Sarah's relationship comes out , has Jessica overstepped the boundaries with Liam ? Can Omitting the detail of her overnight stay with Liam ,help her to win Todd over or will her lies come out into the open and make matters worse ? The rape accusations just keep on coming , and Elizabeth after doing some investigating of her own starts to doubt whether partner Bruce is giving her a true account of what happened that night ? Who is lying - is it Bruce or Robin - the victim ? Will Elizabeth's judgement be clouded or will she be able to determine whether the rape is true or is it a case of lies and omissions being told ?

Lila, after the disastrous first episode of The True Housewives of Sweet Valley when Ken caught her putting him down as a bonehead football player and he walked out . Though this time , is the relationship between Lila and Ken over ? Can Lila let her guard down and tell Ken how she really feels for him or will this be one truth that must be omitted in order to not show defeat?

Another wonderful installment in The Sweet Life series and I look forward to reading the next six to come :)

Nicole says

The ghostwriter is back! And with it, the continuity! And the relatively believable dialogue!

It has most of the makings of a good Sweet Valley book:

Angry Todd is angry? *Check*.

Meddling Liz is meddling? *Check*.

Despicable Lila is despicable? *Check*.

Sociopathic Jessica is sociopathic? *Check*.

Everyone is lying, manipulating, and acting like they are in high school? Motherflipping *check*, yo!

The only things missing are Bruce's Porsche and anything that makes Lila likable.

It's hard to decide who is the dumbest person in this series. Elizabeth for (view spoiler) and not telling him? Jessica for (view spoiler)? Angry Todd for being a complete Neanderthal about having (view spoiler)? Bruce

for (view spoiler)? Lila for (view spoiler)? Or maybe Missy LeGrange for (view spoiler)? (That last one wasn't really a spoiler; I just got carried away.)

I think the most upsetting thing about this installment is that Lila is a completely miserable shrew. She has done nothing with her life and the big crowning accomplishment of her adulthood is being on *True Housewives of Sweet Valley* and apparently everyone is supposed to be proud of her for this. I always had such high hopes for her.

And for the love of god, WHERE is 1BRUCE1?!

Virginia Mae says

Hmmm...I'm trying to decide which character was the stupidest in this installment. I'm going to have to go with Elizabeth. I mean seriously, Liz, why are you all besties with Bruce's accuser? Why are you doubting Bruce just because he was sketchy back in the 80s? Sigh.

I know Todd's always been a jerk, but he needs to lay off with this whole anti-Jessica-having-a-job thing. Not that it's remotely believable, but it's still annoying.

This series is so insanely dumb and compulsively readable!!
