



Told You Twice

Kristen Heitzmann

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This book shares an ISBN with Told you So

Alexis Murphy is done messing with the wrong kinds of men. She could not be happier planning a personalized Grace Evangeline wedding with her fiancé, Jeffrey, who is so right for her. Or is he?

Stage star and spokesmodel, Bo Corrigan, could be the ultimate disruption. Alexis—Exi—is caught by his talent and sexual magnetism. Yet under the glow, she senses trouble, not only danger from Bo's past mistakes, but something inside tearing him apart.

From the moment Bo sees Exi, he knows she's special, but not only that—she's real. Unlike the theater scene he's been immersed in, she sees the man he is and won't stop until she's reached inside and brought that person from despair to life ...
if only they have time.

With violent forces against them, can they get beyond the damage to love that heals and restores?

Told You Twice Details

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From Reader Review Told You Twice for online ebook

Jamie says

This is one of those books that you can't wait to get to the end and find out what happens but you don't want to get to the end of the book. When life throws bad things your way and you feel responsible for everything bad that happens, do you give up or do you get back up and move on? This is one of the main struggles for the main characters and the supporting characters within this book. God and his love and power within us is one of the main themes throughout the book. Even though its a work of fiction it is easy to relate to one of the characters in the book and see yourself in that role. Definitely a must read!

Courtney Clark says

Author Kristen Heitzmann has penned another compelling story of redemption with elements of romance, suspense, and her signature subtle humor with her latest indie release, Told You Twice ("Told You" series #2). She again tackles gritty subjects with class and a refreshing straightforwardness. I think she has found a niche in addressing plot elements not commonly found in the mainstream Christian fiction market in a way that serves as an outreach to mainstream readers (Bravo, Kristen!).

Once more, Kristen has penned a story that goes beyond its classification as a contemporary romance/suspense and instead delves deep into the heart of its characters in a realistic way. With brilliant dialogue and subtle humor, this layered story exposes everyone's desperate needs of acceptance and forgiveness.

Exi, for instance, has such a genuine soul. She initially lacks a certain confidence and really needs someone to believe in her, though. While Bo undergoes the most dynamic transformation (and what a journey of healing it is!!!), Exi's quiet and subtle growth over the course of the story stood out to me as a testament to her character.

It's hard to talk about Bo's character with no spoilers! So I'll be careful. :) I'll just say that he has long believed a lie about himself and his perspective on life needed a major overhaul. It is neat to see how Exi's personality draws out the real person inside Bo, the one hurting over loss and trying to hide behind his celebrity. Through the combined influence of Exi, Grace, and a few other unexpected characters, he gradually begins to see life through a lens of forgiveness. His eyes are opened in the most unlikely way when the people around him start to break through his walls.

The message of healing this story tells is at times heartbreaking and beautiful. The simplicity of redemption found in its pages is communicated best with this quote: "...love, trust, forgiveness, and faith can fill the shadows with light and hope." -chapter 20

On another note, huge fans of book 1 (ahem, like me), will be happy to see Grace and Devin back and still the same! They are still sparring, flirting, and complimenting each other's personalities. I was so happy to "spend time" with them as secondary characters and to see that they are important to Bo and Exi in different ways. And that they are still growing, still in love, and still learning lessons on what it means to live out their faith in this crazy world.

Thank you to the publisher for a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for my honest review. All opinions expressed are my own.

Amanda G. Stevens says

If you've read *Told you So* (which you should before this one), you've met swaggering stage actor Bo Corrigan, but you don't know him yet, not really. In this probing sequel, Heitzmann peels back the layers of a character whose depths were only hinted at in the first book. She also introduces us to Alexis (Exi) Murphy, whose unassuming honesty and passion for art attract Bo upon their first meeting. Despite the fact she is engaged to the "perfect" man (and is the cousin of producer Devin Bressard, whose grudge against Bo has only grown since the first book), Bo asks for the opportunity to compete for her affections. Exi agrees, but exploring the connection they feel might not be possible. Bo's careless gambling habits have made him a potential mob target. Danger is nearer than they know, and the greatest peril of all is the jagged wound inside Bo.

I enjoyed the first in this series for its intelligent humor, theme questions on the philosophy of art, and nuanced characters I grew to love. This one is more serious but equally witty (Devin and Grace have not let marriage tame their banter or their quarrels). Like the first book, dialogue drives many of these scenes, which is no complaint given Heitzmann's natural ear. The exploration of art's purpose will apparently be a continued theme of the series: while in the first book Devin and Grace argue mostly about what art is to the beholder, Exi and Bo share more about what art is to the artist.

As for nuanced characters to love ... the people living in these pages are so wrenchingly real. So detailed, each interaction molded by their individualities. So guarded and vulnerable. So flawed, and striving so hard to find their way. I love the (sometimes messed-up) artist community that has evolved. I believe I could read another ten books about this cast, especially Bo.

When I finished reading, I wanted to reread immediately. This is the kind of story that stands on the precipice of the human soul and doesn't fear to look down into the deepest cracks there, the ones we hide until life pries them open and forces us to face ourselves for who we are--dirty and splintered, lost and scared. But it also offers hope to lift us from the crevice. This story asks how much a human heart can take and shows how much one is worth. Bo's journey to healing has only begun, and here is one reader who misses him already and is eager for his continued growth in subsequent books.

Cmarkavich says

It's usually hard to pinpoint at exactly which part in a story I get hooked on it and even by what. Was it one character's journey, was it the setting crafted and woven together or was it all of that accomplished by the author's deft writing? With Kristen Heitzmann's stories, it's never a question for me that I'll be engaged with all of the above and all within the first few pages. This latest installment delivers in that same fashion, but proceeds in a way I did not expect. It's not often that a real, believable romance roots itself so firmly within the beginning of a story that it can withstand the struggles and trials that this story requires from it, but here it is not only possible, but it flows naturally and effortlessly. The battles and undertakings of each character feel achingly and heart breakingly genuine, even when confronted with paths and plot twists that are generally outside the scope of what is considered mainstream Christian fiction storylines. To be honest, that

fact might even make this story more engrossing and engaging and makes it sink beneath your skin, into your veins. Before you know it, it's pumped its way straight to your heart and then back out to all extremities becoming part of who you are. Word after word flows through you making changes down deep into your bones as you live and breathe each choice made by a character, each new trial faced, wondering what you would have done in their shoes. You get so deeply involved that you start to wonder what you could have done to help these friends you've made, and you're left feeling bereft when the story is over because, somehow it just isn't over for you. My advice to you, if you choose to pick up this second installment is that you let happen what the story, characters and author clearly intend to, and succeed at without question; teach you something about yourself, life, love and faith that you may have never considered otherwise.

Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says

This is the second book in the *Told You* series, and I recommend reading the first book, *Told You So* before this one since Bo is an important character in that book and the main characters Grace and Devin play important roles in this book. The author quickly weaves in the backstory from the first book but to me it didn't feel like it was incorporated naturally. The story jumped right into the plot and I felt like some of Exi and Bo's initial development was lacking or superficial, but as I continued reading I was able to get a better sense of their depth and emotions. Although they are strongly drawn to each other, their relationship is brief before all sorts of drama starts happening. The pacing slowed for me in the middle of the book, but then Bo's path to redemption was amazingly portrayed, with realistic grittiness and finally an acceptance and surrender. I know I'm being vague but I'd hate to spoil any of the twists! There is quite a bit of change and growth experienced by Exi, Bo, and even Devin. I loved that Exi is an artist and still discovering her personal style and passion. There was a subtle theme of learning to find and seek after your own dreams, not what someone else expects or according to pressure from perceived societal standards, and it applied to both Exi and Bo on their journey and through their struggles. Definitely recommend to fans of the first book, and if you haven't read it, read it first! :)

(Thank you to the publisher for a copy of the book in exchange for my honest review)

Kara says

Oh friends, I was SO excited to read this one! Ever since reading *Told You So* at the end of last year, and being blown away, I had been anticipating Ms. Heitzmann's next book in the series. I was so sure I'd love it, no matter who it would be about, and guess what? I was so right! I will admit that I was extra special excited though, when I heard it would be Bo's story, because there was just something about that man when I met him in book one. He was so lost in heart-pain, yet the innate goodness inside of him shone through. Grace could see it and so could I. So count me doubly in to find out more about this fascinating character! :)

What a joy it was to discover Bo's heart. He has made and continues to make some really bad choices in his life, but watching as his layers slowly peel back and his true self starts becoming clearer to the others around him, as well as to himself, is a beautiful thing to witness! Of course, Grace (from book one) already knew this, but how much did I love that Exi could see it immediately as well. She is another character with so many layers and bad choices in her past, and it would seem like putting these two together would not be wise. But trust me, they fit each other perfectly! I'm always a bit leery of romances that start when one of the couple is already engaged to someone else, and I admit that Exi made some choices that frustrated me, but I

have to give kudos to Ms. Heitzmann for handling that whole situation very gently. There are so many ways she could have taken it and I was very pleased with the way it all ended up.

This is a gritty and painful story. Bo has a lot of growth to undertake and in order for that to happen, he has to pretty much hit rock bottom. We all know rock bottom is not a pretty or clean place to be. But when he begins to let grace and mercy enter his life, it's a glorious moment and so worth all the hard to get to that point. He broke my heart so many times during this story! In all the best ways, of course. And I was rooting for him every single miserable step it took for him to begin to see light in his life. It was always there, he just had to realize it. Exi's storyline is just as compelling, and when she finally starts to understand herself and what she wants her life to be, ah how happy I was!

Together these two characters create a story that is entirely unforgettable! I love the way Ms. Heitzmann interweaves hope and grace in amongst all the chaos and drama. It's so true of real life, how we sometimes have to search a bit harder to find it, but it's always been there and when we go looking it shines bright. This is a story so worth discovering, friends! Read it and fall in love with these characters as much as I, okay? ;)

**I received a complimentary copy from the author in exchange for my honest review.

Marjorie Hill says

Kristen Heitzmann again uses her wonderful skills as a writer and storyteller to weave a journey that includes me. Her characters are so real I find myself reacting to Bo's and Exie's decisions. The twists and turns create a rollercoaster atmosphere of danger and intrigue. A must read.

Carrie Schmidt (Reading is My SuperPower) says

We first met Bo Corrigan on the pages of *Told You So*, but his supporting role in that book only scratched the surface of the complexities of his character. His "devil-may-care facade" is just that – a facade, masking a heart far more sensitive (the bouquet making scene!!) and broken than appears at first glance. Besides his gorgeous exterior, Bo is a character who truly fascinated me (his ability to shift into just about any persona!). He broke my heart more than once (someone warned me to have tissues handy – she was NOT kidding!) and yet at the same time he solidly won a place in my heart forever.

Rock bottom isn't pretty. When we're wallowing in it in real life or when a favorite character hits it in fiction – no matter who's down there it's pretty sickening. Kristen Heitzmann has captured this journey down to the pit and the road home with authenticity, raw emotion, mercy, grace, and HOPE. Having only authenticity and emotion without the mercy, grace, and hope would leave us, the readers, destitute by the end. But she strikes the ideal balance – framing Bo's story the way it needs to be told from start to finish.

Exi and Bo's romance is also raw and authentic and covered with mercy and grace and hope. Their tale is not the same as Grace & Devin's from *Told You So* – Exi and Bo's downfall is one born of deep internal baggage rather than lust. While there IS some humor sprinkled throughout, *Told You Twice* (and Exi and Bo's romance) is much more intense and emotional and agonizing than it's more comedic predecessor. And it's worth the ache and the copious amounts of tissues you'll need before the end – because the romance itself is a picture of redemption and because when the mercy and grace and hope rain down, it hits you in the

marrow of your soul.

The prodigal son has never looked so gorgeous on the outside as Bo Corrigan, nor as damaged on the inside. His story is impossible to put down so gear up for an emotional roller coaster ride that is equal parts exhilarating and heartwrenching. His romance with Exi, his friendship with Eileen, his rivalry with Devin, hitting rock bottom and climbing back out – all of this will grab your heart and refuse to let go. You will smile. You will swoon. You will cry. You will hold your breath. You may even find yourself praying for a fictional character. (Not that I know this from experience or anything) And as you turn the last page, you will find that you've once again breathed in exquisite grace and called it amazing.

(I received a copy of this book in exchange for only my honest review.)

Read my full review at [Reading Is My SuperPower](#)

Marylin says

Are you acting out your life or are you letting people see the real you?

Does it hurt too much if they do, because of all the things you feel are wrong with you?

Do you feel like your life is starting to shatter all around your feet?

These are some of the issues confronting the characters in this book.

I COULDN'T PUT IT DOWN!

This book is Bo and Alexis (Exi)'s story. They are two people who face issues in their own lives that could defeat them if they let them. They are searching for truth and struggling for worth.

I love how Kristen Heitzmann wove this story together. The characters come to life in such a way that I felt I was right there with them. The many issues in their lives at times seemed overwhelmingly. Through this story we experience a world we may not see and I for one have been deeply touched.

This book is full of action, suspense, romance, heart stopping drama and Godly love.

I was wonderfully given this book by the author for an honest review and I highly recommend it!

Margaret Nelson says

If you haven't read Heitzmann's "Told You So" yet, you definitely will need to do so before reading "Told You Twice." This second book just flows naturally from the first, and you'll need the background of the characters and plot twists in the first book to really get into the second book right away.

Once again the story starts off at a somewhat shallow level, but it doesn't take long before Heitzmann takes you deeper and deeper into Bo and Exi's characters, as well as those of many of the other characters in the story. I really like the way she shows how events from the past impact a person's current personality and the way they face life. Most of Kirsten's characters possess celebrity many of us readers will never experience, but she pulls back the layers so we realize they're just like us underneath, with the same need for love and acceptance and a personal relationship with God.

The story is gut wrenching, heart breaking, and down in the gutter at points, but it's worth persevering

through all of that to the end! There's reconciliation and redemption and hope and love to be found. I can't wait for more books in this series!!!

Catherine says

Loved this follow-up! Such great characters and a moving journey to follow them on. Sorry when the book ended but extremely satisfied! Another great read from a wonderful author!

Cindy Tapp says

Another wonderful book by Kristen Heitzmann. I love how real her characters are and how easily and almost without realizing it I "become" them while reading.

It's exciting that we get to read more about Grace and Devin from "Told You So" while at the same time being completely swept up in a whole new drama, adventure, romance between Exi and Bo. This book is wonderfully written, impossible to put down, and a definite MUST read!

Kristen says

Wow! What a story! The road to happily ever after was not an easy one for Exi and Bo, but there were snags along the way I never imagined. Very emotional, times of light hearted fun, danger, love, friendship and family relationships, and the faith that brings it all together. Reading Told You So first is not required, but it does give the story more depth and makes the back story easier to understand. Familiar characters from the first book also gave me a sense of reuniting with good friends. An excellent book!

Laura C. Brandenburg says

Told You Twice more than matches the wit and charm of book one in the stellar series that tackles real-world issues while demonstrating the enormity of God's grace and love. If you loved the first book, prepare to fall deeper in love with familiar characters, and expand your arms to embrace another romantic duo equally as enthralling. Heitzmann's novel showcases God's redeeming power for every kind of lost soul. She deftly handles the realism of secular motivations and balances it with subtle but powerful truths of Christian hope and freedom.

As with all her works, Heitzmann creates characters we fall in love with, despite their flaws, weaving each perspective through unexpected twists in her captivating narrative. From character and plot development to dialogue and description, I can't offer enough praise. Heitzmann excels in all four areas when so many contemporary novels sacrifice something for the another. She is truly a master of the writing craft, and this second book in the series is another of her must-reads.

*I was given an advanced copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. The opinions expressed here are my own.

Susan Snodgrass says

I am a fan of Kristen Heitzmann's books. Have been from the first. She writes with a style that totally draws the reader in from the beginning and the drawing is greater the farther you get into the book. Her books are powerfully written as well.

This book is the second in the Told You series and you really should read them in order. Don't read this one before you read Told You So. You will miss way too much.

Told You Twice is Bo Corrigan's story, stage star and spokesmodel. The man is too handsome and he knows it. His lifestyle is not one many people would wish to emulate. But Bo carries a ton of pain inside and refuses to let go of it.

Alexis Murphy, cousin to Devin Bressard in the first book, is set to marry Jeffrey, her fiance, when she is introduced to Bo Corrigan. Bo is immediately drawn to her, but she keeps him at a distance. Then things change for both of them. There is plenty of suspense with the same dangers that were prevalent in the first book. It becomes very difficult to keep people safe here and the action ratchets up higher and higher for all involved.

We see others from the first book and not just a tiny mention, either, but a hefty part. I loved that because I didn't want to say goodbye to them then!

Kristen Heitzmann has not written just another Christian fiction story here; don't think that. This story is gritty and raw and hard to read at times. But it's a tale of redemption, God's grace and His love for His creation no matter to what depths they fall. It is extremely moving and powerful, heart shattering at times, but always amazing.

Heitzmann has a knack for creating characters with wonderful depth, communicating to the reader those very depths as if they lived in your own heart. It almost feels at times that your heart will stop for the pain the characters experience. But in the midst of the rawness (and I don't mean anything nasty), the love of God shines through to His children. He is always there for us, no matter what. She conveys this very well. I hated to see it end because then I have to wait for another of her wonderful books.

*I was given a preview copy of this book in exchange for my honest review. All opinions are my own.
