Im dying. Im very rich. I have an extremely interesting offer for you. Kate Lerner, a Chicago radio host, cannot believe what shes reading when the letter comes. Its from her ex-husband, Richard, who disappeared fifteen years ago when their son, Danny, was still a toddler. Not a word, not a dollar has come Kates way in all that time . . . Until now, when this despicable man has the audacity to come back into her life. What does it mean? And even though she could surely use some financial help, does Kate really want to find out? Her twin sister, Karen, says of course. Even David, the new man in her life, agrees. When Kate finally hears about what Richard has to say, she decides that his outlandish proposal is worth one innocent lie to her family. But one lie inevitably leads to another, triggering a chain of events that completely turns her carefully constructed world upside down.

My Personal Review:
Chicago FM radio host Kate Lerner receives a letter from her former husband Richard Farley; this note is his first contact with her since he deserted her and their infant son Danny fifteen year ago. He asks to see her before he dies as he insists that he has one year to live and offers money if she does. Her ex second husband kind Professor Tim advises her not to go; her radio co-host David Weiland and her twin sister Karen say go because she needs the money to pay for the operations that her second child with Tim is undergoing.

Through a mix up in restaurant rendezvous points, they talk over cell phones. Richard asks Kate to accompany him to Italy and if she does she will receive a lot of money. She decides to go because she needs the cash, but also hides who she will meet from her teenage son, who detests his dad. A minor omission and a lie lead to other fabrications as her world begins to unravel leading to her son in trouble with the law.

The theme of this engaging contemporary romantic thriller is derived from Sir Walter Scotts Oh, what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice
to deceive as Kate hides what she is doing from her children. Her actions lead to the troubles facing her son and Jamie, a girl his age, but this is clearly Kates novel as fans learn first hand and from friends and family what makes her tick (and fabricate). Fans will enjoy Judy Markeys tale that focuses on Mom Lies.

Harriet Klausner

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