



### ***The Liars Society #2: A Risky Game***

By Alyson Gerber

HC: 9781338859249 • \$14.99

EB: 9781338859263 • \$14.99

Also available in audio

Ages 9–12 • Grades 4–7

On sale 4/1/2025

# THE LIARS SOCIETY

## A RISKY GAME

BY ALYSON GERBER

## The Story

Deadly stakes, dangerous secrets, and a cut-throat game where the winners are set for life. Welcome to the Boston School and the world of the Liars Society.

Weatherby and Jack have been tapped to join Last Heir, the most powerful secret society in the world, but the night of the first gambit, the game takes a terrifying turn. Now, Jack and Weatherby are in a race against time to discover the truth about the game—and themselves. But how do you know who to trust when everyone is a liar?

Beloved author Alyson Gerber is back with a highly anticipated sequel full of twists and turns, secrets and lies, friends and foes. Can you spot the difference?

## Reading Group Questions

1. *A Risky Game* has two protagonists—Weatherby and Jack. Do they want and need the same things? Do their goals change over the course of the story? What is getting in their way?
2. How important are the Boston School and Hart Isle settings to the story? What about the setting influences the story?
3. Now that you've finished the book, what are some of the things you remember the most about it? Are there certain scenes or images that you think really worked to help you understand the mystery?
4. Jack and Weatherby are keeping a lot of secrets. How do secrets influence the events of the story? If you were in their shoes, would you keep the same secrets?

## About the Author



**Alyson Gerber** is the author of The Liars Society series and the critically acclaimed novels *Focused*, *Braced*, and *Taking Up Space*. A former marketing director, Alyson earned her MFA in creative writing at the New School. She grew up in New England and now lives in New York City with her family. Follow her at @AlysonGerber and alysongerber.com.

## Author Q&A

### What gave you the idea for the Liars Society books?

*The Liars Society* is a twisty mystery set in the world of the New England prep school, featuring a secret society, a mysterious island, and dangerous family secrets, told from the perspective of Jack—the ultimate insider—and Weatherby—a fish-out-of-water scholarship student.

When I started writing the Liars Society books, I couldn't get the idea of a mystery set at a New England prep school out of my head. I grew up in Andover, Massachusetts, in the shadow of Phillips Academy Andover, and I went to boarding school. I always wanted to create a story that took place in this mysterious, insular world. I just wasn't sure where to start. But then, as luck would have it, I found out something about myself—a secret—that changed everything about my life. I started to wonder: *What if you woke up tomorrow and discovered you weren't the person you always thought you were?*

### The book has a large cast of interesting characters. Of all the supporting characters, who was your favorite to write and why?

It feels wrong to admit to having a favorite, but I do: Prescott—or Pres—as Jack calls him, is the most fun character to write! At first, Prescott seems like a typical prep school kid. But he's funnier and more insightful than anyone expects. He's a work in progress, and he knows it. From the beginning of *The Liars Society*, we get to see that under Prescott's privileged and slightly obnoxious exterior, he's an extremely loyal friend and a flawed person with lots of room to grow and change. I love how he always says the uncomfortable thing everyone is thinking but is too afraid to admit out loud. He brings out the best—and also the worst—in the other characters, and whenever he's in a scene, I know I'm going to laugh.

### Did you have to do any research to write this story? If so, can you tell us a little bit about where you looked and what you found?

I love research! It's a chance to learn and try something different and connect with new people. I've had the chance to take skiing lessons (hint-hint), learn how to fence, interview people with very cool, very different jobs, travel to faraway places, snoop around exclusive country clubs, and try delicious foods all in the name of The Liars Society. To create Last Heir—the most powerful and influential secret society in the world—I even landed interviews with members of very well-known secret societies. But, of course, I was sworn to secrecy!

### *A Risky Game* is full of twists, turns, and surprises! Did you surprise yourself at all while writing? If so, how?

When I started the first draft of *A Risky Game*, I knew the big mystery of the book, and I knew how I would answer the mystery-related questions readers were left with at the end of book one. I'd also worked out a few of the important twists. I'd figured out how the puzzles and anagrams would work. And I had a sense of how I wanted the characters to change along the way.

But there are three big plot twists at the end of *A Risky Game*, and I'd only planned for two out of three. The third twist shocked me! I was stuck at the very end of the book. I couldn't pinpoint what wasn't working, but there was something missing. I called an author friend to brainstorm, and I just started throwing out big ideas to raise the stakes . . . what if *this* happened . . . or *that* . . . until I found the final twist, which is my favorite part about book two. It was a great reminder to me that sometimes the best writing comes from talking through ideas and following your instincts and staying flexible, even when you have a plan.