# Author

**Author:** Lois Duncan Steinmetz(1934-2016)

Lois Duncan was an American writer, novelist, poet, and journalist. She wrote her novels particularly in the genres horror, thriller and suspense.

**Genre:** I know what you did last summer is a **thriller.**

**Published:** October 1973.

**Topic:** The book talks about revenge, threat and to be responsible for what you do. It wants to show the reader that you can’t run away from your actions and that you have to face the consequences.

# Recension:

I quite liked the book. It was sometimes thrilling and also entertaining. It surely was way better in the time where it was written, because nowadays the standards for a good thriller are higher than at that time, but I still liked it and I really liked the message of the book. The message is to take responsibility for his doings and to not run away from it because sooner or later you will have to face the consequences.

I would give the book 4/5 stars.

You can buy the book here 🡪 https://goo.gl/RyJCk5

# Plot:

High-school senior Julie James receives a creepy note from an anonymous sender telling her "I Know What You Did Last Summer". The note refers to events of the previous year when Julie, her boyfriend Ray Bronson, Ray's best friend Barry Cox and Barry's girlfriend Helen Rivers accidentally ran over and killed a young boy named David Gregg after driving home from a party in the mountains. After promising to never tell anyone, they drift apart: Barry goes to the local college, Helen drops out of school, Ray goes to California, and Julie continues at school. Now, after Julie received the note, she visits Helen. They call Barry but he is sure it's just a prank; anyone who did know about their crime would go to the police instead of leaving notes. This calms the girls. Ray returns home to Julie, but she doesn't want to continue their relationship because she is dating a new kid, Bud.

Shortly after the accident, Helen has become Channel 5 Golden Girl. Helen meets Collingsworth "Collie" Wilson, just out of the army, at her apartment complex. After this encounter, she finds a magazine cutout of a boy riding a bicycle taped to her apartment door.

Ray brings in the mail at his house and he has received a newspaper clipping about Daniel Gregg. He was the victim of their car accident last summer.

On Memorial Day, Barry receives a call; after he hangs up he walks out of his house to meet his caller. It's dark, he has trouble seeing, and he is shot. When Ray finds out, he calls St. Joseph's Hospital to ask about him and is told he's in surgery. Helen is in the TV studio when she finds out about Barry; when Collie finds out, he picks her up there and takes her to the hospital. However, Barry's mother accuses Helen of calling Barry and shooting him, and ejects her and Collie from the hospital. After Julie finds out, she receives a phone call from Ray asking if they could discuss what has been happening; she meets him, but the only thing they agree on is that the shooter wasn't Helen. Julie suggests going to the Greggs' to see if their tormentor is one of Daniel's family members.

At the Greggs', Ray and Julie use the excuse of car trouble and Megan Gregg lets them in. Ray goes into the kitchen and pretends to make a call while Julie talks to Megan, who is Daniel's sister. She tells Julie that their mother had a breakdown after Daniel's death and was sent to a hospital in Las Lunas, and their father moved there to be close to her. When Ray and Julie leave, Julie tells Ray what she found out.

Ray calls the hospital and learns that since Barry was shot in the spine, he's paralyzed and it may be permanent. Ray sneaks into the hospital to visit Barry and try to talk him into dissolving the secrecy pact. Barry refuses, lying that the shooting was a robbery that had nothing to do with the accident. But thinking back to the night of the shooting, Barry recalls that he was lured out by an anonymous caller who supposedly had photographic evidence of the accident and would give it to Barry in exchange for money. Barry fell for it, agreed to meet the caller at the University athletic field, and was shot.

Leaving the hospital, Ray sees Bud and they have coffee together. Ray says he'll get Julie back and Bud challenges him. Later, Collie appears in Helen's apartment and solemnly states that he is Daniel's older brother, he shot Barry, and he left the picture on her door. Then he says he will kill her and the girl he is going out with that night. Helen panics and locks herself in her bathroom; when Collie tries to take the door off its hinges, she breaks the bathroom window and jumps out.

While Julie prepares to go out with Bud, her mother says she's worried and wants her to stay home, so she agrees, but when Bud arrives, he convinces her to at least walk him to his car so they can talk. He seems impatient, and she realizes she has never seen him so angry. She remembers the first moment she saw Ray when he returned from California, and she realizes she still has feelings for him. At his car, Bud reveals that he is Collingsworth Wilson, Daniel Gregg's half-brother, and he found out who had run him down by questioning the florist where Julie had bought condolence flowers anonymously. He also explains that Collie and Bud are in fact the same person. Bud begins strangling Julie and as she's at the point of unconsciousness, Ray appears and beats Bud/Collie unconscious with a flashlight. When the paramedics come, Bud is arrested for attempted murder. They tell Julie and Ray about Helen's accident and how she had sent them to Julie's house because there would be an attempt on her life. When Julie asked Ray how he knew of Bud's intentions, he tells her Barry called him to release him from the pact, and later he realized who Bud was. Then Julie asks Ray why Bud never tried to hurt him, and Ray answers: "He did, tonight. He knew the worst thing for me would be to stay alive in a world without you."

# Charakters:

**Julie James:** Julie was a fun-loving cheerleader prior to the accident. Of all the teens involved, she feels the guiltiest, and has always regretted not going back to help the victim of their hit-and-run, a child named Daniel Gregg. After the accident, she breaks up with Ray, quits cheerleading and devotes herself to studying hard, in the hopes of both forgetting the horror of the accident, and being accepted to an out of state university to escape the tragedy.

**Helen Rivers:** Helen is a very beautiful young woman, and a television personality, who lives a life of luxury in the Four Seasons apartments. Despite her beauty and success, she is often insecure about her poor background and low education, as she dropped out of high school at the end of her junior year.

**Barry Cox:** Barry is an arrogant, abusing womanizer, who is dating Helen Shivers, despite feeling no real affection for her. He fears being tied down young, one of the main reasons he wants to end his relationship with Helen, and repeatedly cheats on her with other women. He was a star football player before his high school graduation, and suffers from a worrying, domineering mother who cannot bear the thought of Barry leaving her.

**Ray Bronson:** Ray is Julie's ex-boyfriend; Julie ended their relationship after the hit-and-run accident, and, grief-stricken, Ray graduated high school, abandoned college and travelled along the Californian coast, but eventually returns. He is the only son of a former baseball champion who now owns a string of successful sports stores. Ray shows no athletic talents, and feels he has always lived in Barry's shadow, however he matures after the accident and becomes more confident and assertive.

# Sources

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