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Dreamers Often Lie



Synopsis

New York Times bestselling author Jacqueline West makes her YA debut in this Shakespeare-inspired novel for fans of Holly Black and Laini Taylor "If you liked the trippy hallucinations of *Black Swan*, you'll be mesmerized by Jacqueline West's eerie new YA romance." *Entertainment Weekly* Who can you trust when you can't trust yourself? Jaye wakes up from a skiing accident with a fractured skull, a blinding headache, and her grip on reality sliding into delusion. Determined to get back to her starring role in the school production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Jaye lies to her sister, her mom, her doctors. She's fine, she says. She's fine. If anyone knew the truth that hallucinations of Shakespeare and his characters have followed her from her hospital bed to the high school halls it would all be over. She's almost managing to pull off the act when Romeo shows up in her anatomy class. And it turns out that he's 100 percent real. Suddenly Jaye has to choose between lying to everyone else and lying to herself. Troubled by this magnetic boy, a long-lost friend turned recent love interest, and the darkest parts of her family's past, Jaye's life tangles with Shakespeare's most famous plays until she can't tell where the truth ends and pretending begins. Soon, secret meetings and dizzying first kisses give way to more dangerous things. How much is real, how much is in Jaye's head, and how much does it matter as she flies toward a fate over which she seems to have no control?

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (14 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

As with all of West's work the book features a mix of excellent characterization, vivid scenery, and elegant prose. *Dreamers Often Lie* is definitely one of her best works although her entire bibliography is astonishingly solid. The story itself beautifully whisks you away on a journey of the mind (and in the mind) through the eyes of Jaye Stewart, a "drama geek" recovering from of head injury which leaves her with occasional visions of William Shakespeare himself as well as some of his characters. As the story progresses you begin questioning what is real and what is not. I don't often review books for one reason or another but I felt compelled to on this one. I am so rarely drawn into a story this deeply and the level of complexity of this story has led me to begin reading the book a second time already. If that isn't a seal of approval I don't know what is. This book is, in a word, awesome.

Brava! Expect a wonderful mix of rich language (love Jacqueline's fresh and spot-on metaphors), timely plot (consequences of teenage concussions), delightful humor in unexpected moments, realistic teen love interests and family problems, and brilliant incorporation of Shakespearean characters and lines in this contemporary novel. No need to be a serious student of Shakespeare to understand and appreciate this element, but the story will likely stir many readers' curiosity about the Shakespearean classics. Imagine Hamlet entertaining the protagonist, Jaye, with poor Yorick's skull in a hospital room or the saucy Bard of Avon himself grinning in her rear view mirror, and you'll have the idea. The author gradually clarifies the circumstances of Jaye's accident and her life prior to it as they come back into focus for her. Could not put this book down. High school "theater geeks" and classic movie buffs, in particular, will adore it.

I loved this book! I was immediately drawn into the life of Jaye, the main character, who has suffered a brain injury and has started having visions of Shakespearean characters. Don't worry if you're not familiar with Shakespeare and/or his characters. You will still love this story. The author really only includes Shakespearean characters with whom most people are familiar. I have not been drawn into a book like I was with this one in a very long time. Give it a read. You will not be disappointed. West's lyrical writing is fantastic, as are the humor she inserts occasionally. She is very much in touch with the mindset and emotions of a "drama geek" high school girl.

*4.75 stars I loved this book so, so much. It was fast-paced, thrilling, and the characters were incredibly quirky. I loved the main character, and felt for her on every page. As a lover of Shakespeare, every single reference and quote made me squeal. The whole book was incredibly

trippy, but not confusing. The plot thread was solid enough that you could follow through even though the main character was struggling between what was reality and what was a strange fever-dream. There was a bit of a love triangle, which I usually hate, but because of the way it was done I really liked it. One of the boys was grounded heavily in the world that she has always known, grounded with her family, and the other boy is someone she isn't even entirely sure is real. So I feel like this is the only reason I liked the love triangle as much as I did. In conclusion, I really loved this book, and I really, really need more YA from this author.

Dreamers Often Lie brings to life the confusing world where hallucinations caused by a head injury, dreams, theater, and the drama of being a teenager intertwine. West paints images with her words in ways that describe feelings, thoughts, events in ways you would never imagine yet fit perfectly. This book will take you into Jaye's life following a severe concussion and leave you questioning what is real and what is dream. I love how I could interpret the story as it pertains to my life, and I imagine every time I read it (which I plan to do repeatedly) that interpretation will change.

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