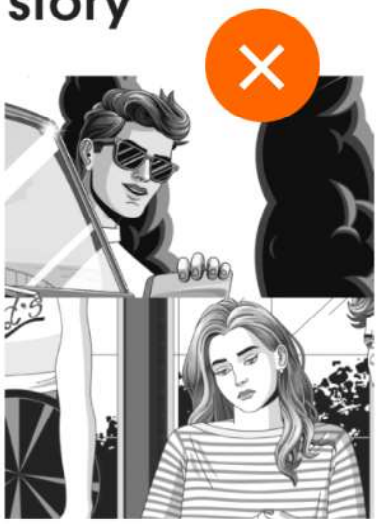
LIAR'S BEACH

Lindon visits his friend Jasper at his parent's huge beach house in Martha's Vineyard. Jasper's family are rich but Linden's family is working class and he wants to keep this a secret. Liar's Beach is a story about friends, money, secrets, love, and lies.

People in the story

Michael Linden



Jasper and Eliza Kendrick

Meredith

Greg

Aidy

Holiday

New words

ambulance

island

jail

necklace

pool

waitress

Note about the story

Liar's Beach is Katie Cotugno's first murder **mystery*** book. The story is about a boy called Linden and his visit to his friend's beach house on an island called Martha's Vineyard. Many people in Martha's Vineyard are very rich, but Linden's family is not. Linden has rich friends because he has a sports **scholarship** to an expensive school. *Liar's Beach* is a story about friends, money, secrets, love, and **lies**.

Before-reading questions

1 Read the title of this book and look at the cover. What will this book be about, do you think?

2 Martha's Vineyard is an island in the United States of America with many big beach houses. What people live on Martha's Vineyard, do you think? Are they rich or poor? What schools do their children go to? What are their lives like?

3 This is a story about secrets. Do you have secrets? Do you tell your secrets to anyone?

4 Look at the "People in the story" on page 4 and choose two characters. What are they like, do you think?

*Definitions of words in **bold** can be found in the glossary on pages 78–80.

CHAPTER ONE

The house

Ten days before the police came to August House and we were on the news, Jasper met me at the boat.

"I thought that you were coming last night." he said. He wore sunglasses and a white shirt.

I climbed into his expensive car. "The boat was full," I said. This was a **lie**. The **truth** was that I had to work at my supermarket job. I often **lied** to Jasper and our rich friends at our expensive **boarding** school about money.

I lied to them about other things, too.

"How was your summer job?" Jasper asked.

"What? Oh. It was fine," I said.

Jasper thought that I had an important **law** job. It was a stupid lie, but I did not want Jasper to know that my family was **working class**. We did not have much money to pay for my boarding school. But I was smart, and I was good at a sport called lacrosse, so I had a **scholarship**.

Jasper drove us down a long road. We were on an island called Martha's Vineyard, and at the

end of the road was a beach and a beautiful large white house.

"This is August House," Jasper said.

"Wow!" I thought, but I didn't say it. I didn't want Jasper to know that his house and money **impressed** me.

I took my bag and I followed Jasper into the garden. There was a large pool with two boys in it and some steps that went down to the beach.

"Linden is here," Jasper said.

"Hey," said the first boy. He was Jasper's older brother, Wells. Wells pointed to the other boy in the pool. "That's Doc. He lives in a house down the beach."

"And do you know my sister, Eliza?" Jasper pointed at a girl.

I did know Eliza. Eliza lived at home with her parents, but we met once or twice when she came to our boarding school to see Jasper. She was sitting on a chair by the pool next to another girl with red hair. Eliza waved at me. She was wearing sunglasses and a bikini.

I waved back.

I liked Eliza.

"And I'm Meredith," said the girl with red hair.

Jasper looked at Meredith. "Yes. That's Meredith. Now, I want to show you the house." I followed Jasper into the house. We walked into a hall and saw a sleeping dog.

"That's Whimsy," said Jasper. He touched Whimsy gently and smiled. "Follow me, Linden. I'll show you your room."

We walked through the huge dining room into the living room, and then a library. Then, we

passed a study and went up lots of stairs.

"Meredith lived near here once," Jasper told me. "But her parents sold their house last year. They don't have a house on the beach any more, so she comes here every day."

Jasper didn't sound happy about this.

"Did you two ever **date**?" I asked.

"No," said Jasper quickly. "She has a boyfriend called Greg. I don't like Meredith or Greg."

Jasper's parents took us into town for a fish dinner that night. When we walked to the cars, Mrs. Kendrick put her hand on my arm.

"Linden," she said. "Thank you for being a good friend to Jasper."

"He's a good friend to me too," I said.

"Yes," said Mrs. Kendrick. "But this was a difficult year for Jasper. It was hard for all of us."

"OK," I said, but I thought, "What is she talking about? Did something bad happen?"

I knew that Jasper's dad had some trouble with the law last year, but I didn't like to ask my friends questions about their lives. This was because I didn't want them to ask questions about mine.

We were eating at a restaurant called Red's. While we waited for a table, Eliza turned to me.

"Are you from Boston?" she asked.

"Yes. I was born there," I said, but I did not say any more. I did not want her to know I lived in the poorer part of Boston in a small and old apartment.

"Do you like football?" she asked.

"Not really," I answered. "I like lacrosse more."

"Oh yes," said Mr. Kendrick. "How is your leg, Linden? Are you going to play lacrosse in the fall?"

"Dad, don't," said Jasper. "Linden doesn't want to talk about that."

"It's OK," I said. I hurt my leg in a car **crash** six months ago with a girl I was dating. Her name was Greer.

"My leg is fine now," I said.

That was another lie because my leg still hurt. But I needed to play lacrosse to keep my scholarship.

"You're a good player," said Mr. Kendrick.

I just smiled.

Our waitress came with our food. She was blonde and pretty. Jasper smiled at her, but Meredith didn't.

"Can I have another cola?" Meredith asked.

"Of course," said the waitress. She walked away.

"Oh, sorry," said Meredith, when the waitress came back. "Can I have some lemon in it?" But Meredith didn't sound sorry.

"OK," said the waitress. She smiled at Meredith but it was not a nice smile. "Is that everything?"

"Yes it is—for now," said Meredith.

The waitress walked away. Jasper looked angry. "Why are you being so **rude**?"

"I'm not being rude," said Meredith. Then, she

waved her hand at the waitress and shouted, "I want another knife!"

That night, we had a small party on the beach with some of Jasper's friends.

"There you are!" Doc said when he saw us. "I'm happy that you came."

"Of course," said Eliza. She smiled at Doc, and I suddenly felt a bit **jealous**.

I spoke to some of Jasper's friends from Martha's Vineyard, and then I sat down on the beach.

"You're quiet," said Eliza. She sat next to me and gave me a bottle of beer. "Are you OK?"

"I just like to watch people sometimes," I said.

"Are you watching me, Linden?"

"Why?" I asked with a **grin**. "Do you want me to watch you?"

"Maybe," Eliza said. She **grinned** back at me.

Eliza was a beautiful girl. I was planning to say, "Do you want to go for a walk with me?" but then someone said my name loudly.

"Michael?"

I turned around quickly. Only my mom and one other person called me by my first name.

CHAPTER TWO

Lies

"Holiday," I said. "Hello."

My mom worked for Holiday's parents. She cleaned their huge house in Boston and cooked their meals.

"Hi!" said Holiday happily. She looked different. She still had her dark curly hair and glasses, but she looked older and prettier.

I last saw Holiday three years ago—before I started boarding school.

"What are you doing here?" she asked me.

"I'm staying with friends from school," I said. I pointed at Eliza, Jasper, and Meredith.

Holiday waved at them, but I quickly pulled her away down the beach. "What are you doing here?" I asked.

"My parents have a beach house here on the island," she said. "Didn't your mom tell you?"

"No," I said. This was another lie she told me, but I didn't think it was important enough to remember. I needed to get away from Holiday. I didn't want Eliza or Jasper to know that my mother worked for Holiday's parents.

"Well, it was nice to see you. I have to go back to my friends now," I told her.

At the same time, Holiday said: "Do you want to get coffee together soon?"

"Oh. OK."

Holiday looked at me strangely. "But only if you want to."

"No, that sounds great," I lied. It did not sound great. It sounded boring.

"Great!" said Holiday.

"Who was that?" Jasper asked when I came back to the group.

"Someone from home," I said.

"Was she your girlfriend?" Jasper asked with a grin.

"No! Our moms are friends."

"OK," said Jasper. "Sit down. We're playing Lies."

"How do we play?" I asked. "Do you just have to lie?"

"Yes," said Eliza. "The best lie wins."

"I'll start," said Doc. "Linden works at a burger restaurant!"

Everyone laughed, and I did too, but I felt **embarrassed**. Doc was close to the truth, but he didn't know it.

"I've got one," Jasper said suddenly. He turned to Meredith and grinned. "Meredith's boyfriend is **cheating** on her. But she's too stupid to understand that he doesn't love her."

Everyone went quiet.

"Oh, sorry," said Jasper. He grinned at Meredith. "I forgot that I was supposed to lie."

But Meredith didn't laugh. Nobody did.

"You're horrible!" Meredith said. She jumped up and ran across the beach.

"Yeah?" shouted Jasper. "You're even worse!"

"Why do you have to be like this?" asked Eliza, angrily. "Meredith didn't do anything wrong."

"She's dating Greg, and then she comes to our house and eats our food," said Jasper.

"Meredith was right," said Eliza. "You *are* horrible." She turned and walked across the

beach to find Meredith.

I found Eliza sitting on the beach away from the party.

"Where's Meredith?" I asked.

"She left," said Eliza quietly. "Did you know that we all used to be good friends? Us, Meredith, and Greg. Our parents, too. I wanted it to always be like that. Was that stupid of me?"

"No," I said.

"This is because of Greg's dad," Eliza said. "Everything that happened last year is because of him."

I didn't reply. I didn't want Eliza to know that Jasper didn't talk to me about their family and their problems.

"Dad had some money problems," said Eliza, "and Greg's dad learned about it. He told the police, and our dad went to jail for ten months."

Jail?

"That's terrible," I said.

Why didn't Jasper tell me? But I couldn't be angry at Jasper, because I had big secrets too.

"Yeah," said Eliza. "And Greg didn't even act

like he was sorry. He became horrible, and so did my brother."

"And now Jasper doesn't like Meredit[redacted] said. "Because she's dating Greg."

"Yes. I just want us all to be friends again," said Eliza. Then, she smiled at me. "Sorry. This is your vacation. You don't want to hear about all my stupid rich girl's problems."

I wanted to say, "I want to hear everything that you have to say about it," but I didn't. I didn't ask her anything more—and maybe that was a mistake.

Jasper woke me up in the morning. "I want to go into town and get some food for later," he said.

After breakfast we went to a small store. When Jasper went to find his favorite—and very expensive—food, I saw the waitress from Red's. She was shopping there, too.

"Hey!" I said.

" . . . Hi."

"Last night," I said. "At the restaurant."

"Yes, I remember," she said.

I wanted to say, "Sorry about Meredith. It was

very rude of her," but I didn't.

"Linden!" Jasper shouted, suddenly. Then, he saw the waitress and smiled at her. "I Sorry Meredith was so rude last night. My parents are leaving the island to see some friends tonight, so we're having a party at August House. Do you want to come?"

"Maybe."

"This is my friend, Linden. Linden, this is Aidy. Aidy, will you come tonight or not?"

Aidy smiled. "I'll come."

We left the store, and I said to Jasper, "I didn't know that you knew her."

"I like Aidy," he said. "I wanted to date her, but I told Greg, and then he kissed her."

"Does Meredith know?"

"I think that she does," Jasper said. "She was very rude to Aidy last night."

"I don't think that she'll be happy to see Aidy at the party."

Jasper laughed. "It's my house. I don't care about Meredith's feelings."

LIAR’S BEACH

DURING-READING QUESTIONS · MULTIPLE CHOICE

CHAPTER ONE

1. Why does Linden lie to Jasper about his job?

A. He wants Jasper to think he has an important law job.

B. He wants Jasper to help him find a better job.

C. He has promised not to talk about his summer.

2. How did Linden get into his expensive boarding school?

A. His parents paid the full school fees.

B. He won a scholarship because he was smart and good at lacrosse.

C. Jasper’s parents offered to pay for him.

3. When did Linden hurt his leg, and how?

A. Six months ago, in a car crash with a girl he was dating.

B. Last summer, during a lacrosse match.

C. A year ago, when he fell down the stairs.

CHAPTER TWO

1. Why does Linden take Holiday away from the rest of the group?

A. He wants to ask her about Jasper.

B. He does not want Eliza or Jasper to know that his mother works for Holiday’s parents.

C. He wants to introduce her to his mother.

2. Does Linden want to get coffee with Holiday?

A. Yes. He is excited to spend time with her.

B. No. He thinks it will be boring, but he says yes to be polite.

C. No. He tells her directly that he dislikes her.

3. Why does Jasper hate Meredith?

A. Meredith is dating Greg, whose father told the police about Jasper’s father’s money problems.

B. Meredith told the school that Jasper was a bad lacrosse player.

C. Meredith refuses to visit August House anymore.

Choose one answer (A, B or C) for each question.

Exercises

CHAPTER ONE

1 Complete these sentences in your notebook with the correct form of the verb.

1 Jasper ....*met*.... (meet) Linden at the boat.
2 Linden didn't want Jasper to ..... (know) that his money impressed him.
3 Linden ..... (see) Jasper's dog, Whimsy, sleeping in the hall.
4 Mr. Kendrick asked, "Are you going to ..... (play) lacrosse in the fall?"
5 Jasper wanted to know why Meredith was ..... (be) so rude.
6 Only two people ..... (call) Linden by his first name.

CHAPTER TWO

2 Match the two parts of the sentences in your notebook.

Example: *1—c*

1 She still had her dark curly hair and glasses,	**a** because I had big secrets too.
2 I didn't want Eliza or Jasper to know	**b** and then he kissed her.
3 But I couldn't be angry at Jasper,	**c** but she looked older and prettier.
4 My parents are leaving the island to see some friends tonight,	**d** to see Aidy at the party.
5 I wanted to date her, but I told Greg,	**e** that my mother worked for Holiday's parents.
6 I don't think that she'll be happy	**f** so we're having a party at August House.

Kedves Diákok!

A megoldásokat a következő email-címre várjuk **nevetek és iskolátok nevének pontos feltüntetésével: belasenglish@gmail.com**

Az első forduló beküldési határideje 2026. november 30.

Beküldendő az utolsó két oldalon található olvasott szövegértési feladatsor megoldása (feleletválasztós kérdéssor és nyelvtani feladatsor).

Jó munkát és sok szerencsét kívánunk!