



## To Be Perfectly Honest: A Novel Based on an Untrue Story

By Sonya Sones



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**To Be Perfectly Honest: A Novel Based on an Untrue Story** By Sonya Sones

Can honesty lead to heartbreak if the truth is subjective? A compelling novel in verse from Sonya Sones.

Fifteen-year-old Colette is addicted to lying. Her shrink says this is because she's got a very bad case of Daughter-of-a-famous-movie-star Disorder—so she lies to escape out from under her mother's massive shadow. But Colette doesn't see it that way. She says she lies because it's the most fun she can have with her clothes on. Not that she's had that much fun with her clothes *off*. At least not yet, anyway...

When her mother drags her away from Hollywood to spend the entire summer on location in a boring little town in the middle of nowhere, Colette is less than thrilled. But then she meets a sexy biker named Connor. He's older, gorgeous, funny, and totally into her. So what if she lies to him about her age, and about who her mother is? I mean, she *has* to keep her mother's identity a secret from him. If he finds out who she *really* is, he'll forget all about Colette, and start panting and drooling and asking her for her mother's autograph. Just like everyone *always* does.

But what Colette doesn't know is that Connor is keeping a secret of his own...



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### Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—This coming-of-age novel in verse features Colette, a spunky, untrustworthy narrator whose schoolmates like to joke, “How can you tell/if Colette is lying?/Her mouth/is open.” Readers will root for the teen as she struggles under the shadow of her beautiful, movie-star mother whose permissive parenting style is equally neglectful. But all is not as it seems, as readers are taken on a roller coaster of truth and lies. By “reinventing reality,” Colette creates her own world because, in her words, “my actual life/sucks.” Cheeky Colette is well matched by her precocious younger brother. The siblings are forced to follow their mother “on location” to a small town where the week's main excitement is the farmers' market. In “the armpit/of the universe!” Colette meets Connor, for whom she feels a passion that she will struggle to rein in, much like her indulgence in lying. Sones captures the ache of first love. Readers may find themselves laughing, crying, and wanting to believe the unreliable, well-developed narrator. Excerpts may make for a stepping stone to William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Like Shakespeare's play, this title lends itself to discussion about healthy relationships, setting limits, defining oneself, and evaluating what is real. Fast paced and great for reluctant readers.—Teresa Pfeifer, The Springfield Renaissance School, Springfield, MA(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

Sones' latest novel in verse is a stealthy tutorial on deception and gullibility. Fifteen-year-old Colette, who first appeared in Sones' *One of Those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies* (2004), has a penchant for lying. When she and her adoring little brother, Will, reluctantly join their actress mother on location in small San Luis Obispo, California, she is expecting a boring summer. Enter Connor, who shows up riding alongside Colette's mother's limo on his motorcycle. Could Colette's lost summer be salvaged after all? Readers will be easily drawn in as Sones convincingly relates story after story before revealing that many events were skillfully fabricated by Colette. The well-crafted verse speeds along fluidly, moving readers nimbly through the courtship and the romance, until, yes, they are fooled again. Many readers will recognize their own lives as Connor dramatically beats Colette at her own game and teaches her essential life lessons about vulnerability, honesty, and self-discovery. Grades 9-12. --Gail Bush

Review

"Sones captures the ache of first love. Readers may find themselves laughing, crying, and wanting to believe the unreliable, well-developed narrator...Fast paced and great for reluctant readers." (*School Library Journal*)

"Readers will be easily drawn in as Sones convincingly relates story after story before revealing that many events were skillfully fabricated by Colette. The well-crafted verse speeds along fluidly...Many readers will recognize their own lives as Connor dramatically beats Colette at her own game and teaches her essential life lessons about vulnerability, honesty, and self-discovery." (*Booklist*)

"Sones has perfected the art of the verse novel...Sones writes with such an intriguing and effortless style that I flew through 50 pages without even realizing it." (*TeenReads.com*)

"Readers will relate to the ups and downs of a new romance, the disappointment of unanswered texts and a phone that won't ring, the elation of stolen kisses, and the angst of deciding how far to go physically...a light-hearted take on disappointed romance for readers with active fantasy lives of their own." (*BCCB*)

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Adrian Kester:**

In this 21st century, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive today, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. Yes, by reading a guide your ability to survive improve then having chance to remain than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading a book, we give you this kind of To Be Perfectly Honest: A Novel Based on an Untrue Story book as beginner and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

#### **Rosemary Lafleur:**

Spent a free time to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? May be reading a book may be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the reserve untitled To Be Perfectly Honest: A Novel Based on an Untrue Story can be excellent book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

#### **Andrew Howe:**

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#### **Robert Eslinger:**

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