

Verity

by Colleen Hoover · Language: EN

Summary by booksummaryai.com — <https://booksummaryai.com/country/en/verity>

Overview

Verity is a psychological thriller that follows Lowen Ashleigh, a struggling writer who is hired to finish the bestselling book series of the injured and comatose author Verity Crawford. Lowen moves into the Crawford home to sort through Verity's notes, where she discovers an unfinished autobiography that reveals Verity's darkest secrets, including her possible role in the deaths of her twin daughters and her disturbing relationship with her husband, Jeremy. As Lowen becomes entangled in the family's life, she must decide whether to reveal the truth or protect the man she has fallen for.

The novel is a gripping exploration of obsession, manipulation, and the unreliability of memory and narrative. The story alternates between Lowen's present-day perspective and excerpts from Verity's manuscript, creating a tense, layered narrative that keeps readers questioning what is real. The book's main argument is that the line between truth and fiction is dangerously thin, and that the stories we tell ourselves can be as destructive as the lies we tell others. Verity matters because it is a masterclass in suspense, with a shocking twist that forces readers to reconsider everything they have read, making it a standout in the genre of romantic suspense.

Key Takeaways

- Trust your instincts when something feels off in a relationship, as manipulation can be subtle and devastating.
- The stories we tell ourselves about others are often incomplete; seek the full truth before making judgments.
- Be cautious about who you let into your home and your life, as appearances can be deceiving.
- Writing can be a dangerous act of confession; be mindful of what you put on paper.
- Love can blind you to red flags; take time to see the whole picture before committing.
- A person's past actions are the best predictor of their future behavior, even if they claim to have changed.
- The truth is rarely simple; be prepared for uncomfortable revelations when you dig deeper.
- Protect your own mental health by setting boundaries with people who manipulate or gaslight you.

Chapter Summaries

Part One

Lowen Ashleigh, a struggling writer, is offered a lucrative job to finish the remaining three books in Verity Crawford's bestselling series. Verity is incapacitated after a car accident, and her husband Jeremy hires Lowen to work from their home. Lowen moves into the Crawford house, where she is unsettled by the atmosphere and her growing attraction to Jeremy. While organizing Verity's office, she finds a manuscript titled 'The Truth About Verity' that is not meant for publication. She begins reading it, and it reveals Verity's disturbing thoughts and confessions about her life, including her ambivalence toward her children and her obsession with Jeremy.

Part Two

Lowen continues reading Verity's manuscript, which details her relationship with Jeremy from the beginning. Verity describes her intense infatuation with Jeremy and her jealousy of his first wife, Chastity. The manuscript reveals that Verity may have intentionally caused the death of her twin daughters by leaving them unattended in a car, and that she later killed her unborn child by inducing a miscarriage. Lowen is horrified and conflicted, especially as she grows closer to Jeremy and his son, Crew. She begins to see Jeremy as a victim of Verity's manipulation and feels compelled to protect him from the truth.

Part Three

Lowen's relationship with Jeremy deepens, and they become intimate. She struggles with the decision of whether to show him the manuscript, fearing it will destroy him. Meanwhile, Verity shows signs of consciousness, and Lowen suspects she may be faking her coma. Lowen discovers that Verity's manuscript may have been written as a twisted form of therapy, and she begins to doubt its authenticity. The tension escalates when Lowen finds notes that suggest Verity was aware of her presence and may have been manipulating events all along. Lowen ultimately decides to hide the manuscript and leave, but she is drawn back when Verity's condition worsens.

Part Four

Lowen returns to the Crawford house after Verity is found unresponsive. She and Jeremy grow closer, and Lowen begins to feel like part of the family. However, she is haunted by the manuscript and the possibility that Verity is not truly comatose. Lowen discovers that Verity had been writing a letter to Jeremy, confessing everything, but it was never delivered. In a climactic moment, Lowen confronts Verity, who appears to be awake, and they struggle. Lowen ultimately smothers Verity with a pillow, believing she is protecting Jeremy and Crew. The novel ends with Lowen and Jeremy together, but a final letter from Verity suggests she was innocent and that Lowen may have misjudged her.

Themes

- Unreliable narrator
- Obsession and manipulation
- Grief and loss
- Truth vs. fiction
- Maternal ambivalence
- Psychological suspense

Notable Quotes

- "I have never been a fan of the truth. It's overrated." — Lowen reflects on the nature of truth early in the novel.
- "You can't live your life for other people. You have to do what's right for you." — Jeremy advises Lowen about her career and life choices.
- "I think the hardest part of writing is the fear of being judged." — Lowen discusses the vulnerability of writing with Jeremy.
- "The truth is a dangerous thing, but it's the only thing that sets you free." — Lowen considers the implications of revealing Verity's manuscript.
- "I'm not a good person. I've never been a good person." — Verity's manuscript confession, revealing her self-perception.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Verity about?

Verity is a psychological thriller about Lowen Ashleigh, a writer hired to finish the books of a comatose author. While organizing Verity's notes, Lowen finds an autobiography that reveals disturbing secrets about Verity's life, including possible involvement in her children's deaths. The novel is a tense, twisty exploration of truth, obsession, and manipulation.

Is Verity worth reading?

Yes, if you enjoy fast-paced psychological thrillers with shocking twists. It's a gripping, dark read that keeps you guessing until the end. However, it contains disturbing content and unreliable narration, so it may not be for everyone. Fans of Colleen Hoover's romance work will find a darker, more suspenseful side of her writing.

How does Verity end?

Spoiler: Lowen smothers Verity with a pillow, believing she is protecting Jeremy and Crew from Verity's manipulation. Lowen and Jeremy end up together, but a final letter from Verity suggests

she was innocent and that Lowen misjudged her. The ambiguous ending leaves readers questioning what truly happened.

Who should read *Verity*?

Readers who enjoy psychological thrillers with unreliable narrators and dark twists. It's also a good pick for Colleen Hoover fans who want to see her explore a more suspenseful genre. However, it deals with heavy themes like child death and manipulation, so sensitive readers should be cautious.

How long does it take to read *Verity*?

The book has around 350 pages, and at an average reading speed of 250 words per minute, it takes roughly 6 to 8 hours to read. Many readers finish it in a few sittings because of the gripping plot and short chapters.