

LOIS DUNCAN



SOME
SECRETS
REFUSE TO
STAY BURIED.

I know What You Did Last SUMMER

The bestselling novel and blockbuster movie

chapter 1

The note was there, lying beside her plate when she came down to breakfast. Later, when she thought back, Julie would remember it. Small. Plain. Her name and address hand-lettered in stark black print across the front of the envelope.

At the time, however, she had eyes only for the other letter, long and white and official, which lay beside it. Hurriedly, she picked this up and paused, glancing across the table at her mother who had just come in from the kitchen.

"It's come," Julie said.

"Well, aren't you going to open it?" Mrs. James set the coffeepot down on its hot plate. "You've been waiting for this long enough. I would think you'd have had it open before you even sat down."

"I guess I'm scared," Julie admitted. She slipped her forefinger under the corner of the flap. "Okay. Here goes."

Running her finger the length of the envelope, she drew out the folded sheet of stationery and smoothed it flat on the table.

"Dear Miss James," she read aloud. "I am pleased to inform you that you have been accepted —"

"Oh, honey!" Her mother gave a little gasp of delight. "How wonderful!"

"Accepted!" Julie repeated. "Mom, can you believe it? I'm accepted! I'm going to Smith!"

Mrs. James came around the table and gave her daughter a warm hug.

"I'm so proud of you, Julie, and your dad certainly would be too. If only he could have lived to have known about it, but — oh, there's no sense in looking backward." Her eyes were suspiciously bright. "Maybe he does know. I like to think so. And if not, I'm proud enough for the both of us."

"I can't believe it," Julie said. "I honestly can't. When I took those tests, I felt as though I was missing so many questions. I guess I knew more than I thought I did."

"It's your senior year that's made this possible," her mother said. "I've never seen such a change in anybody as in you this past year. The way you've buckled down and studied — you've been a completely different person. And, I'll admit now, it's worried me a little."

"Worried you?" Julie exclaimed in surprise. "Why, I thought you always dreamed of my going to the same college you did. Last year you were on me all the time about being out too much and never cracking a book and spending half my life on cheerleader practice."

"I know. It's just that I never expected you to do such an about-face. I can almost pinpoint the day it

happened. It was just about the time you broke up with Ray."

"Mom, I've told you —" Julie tried to keep her voice light despite the sudden shock of cold that hit her stomach. "Ray and I didn't exactly break up. We just decided we were seeing too much of each other and we'd slow it down for awhile. Then he left home and took off for the coast, and that took care of that."

"But to give up dating so completely —"

"I haven't," Julie said impatiently. "I still go out some. In fact, Bud's coming over tonight. That's a date."

"Yes, there's Bud. But that's only been recently, and it's not the same. He's older, more serious about everything. Of course, I'm happy and proud that you've put in enough work to get accepted by a good eastern college, but I wish you'd been able to balance it better. Somehow I have the feeling that you've missed a lot of the fun of your senior year."

"Well, you can't have it all," Julie said. Her voice sounded high and sharp, even to her own ears. The cold feeling in her stomach was spreading higher, up where it touched her heart.

She shoved back her chair and got up.

"I'm going up to my room. I've got to find my history notes."

"But you haven't eaten yet," Mrs. James exclaimed, gesturing toward the plate of scrambled eggs and toast, still untouched on the table.

"I'm sorry," Julie said. "I — I guess I'm — too excited."

The bestselling novel by

LOIS DUNCAN

They thought the worst summer of their lives was behind them. . . .

They make a pact: They'll never talk about it again. And they don't—until the note. One short sentence is enough to shatter their lives. Someone knows what they did. And someone wants revenge.

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