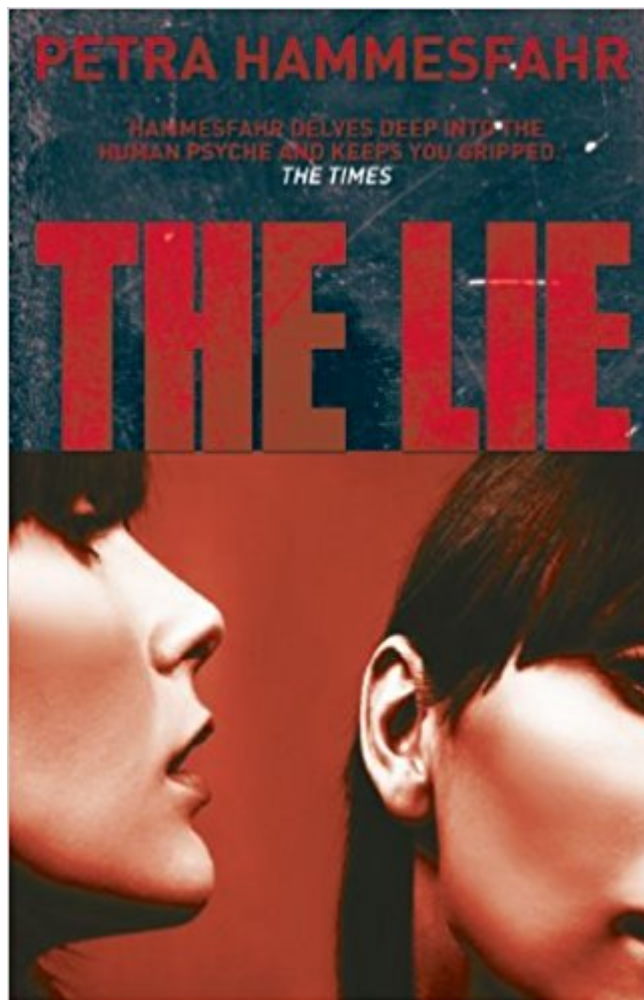




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# The Lie



## Synopsis

“...One shares Susanne’s belief that she must try to carry the deception off. Whether she will succeed keeps the reader, peering over Susanne’s shoulder at all the traps, turning the pages of this remarkable book.”

- The Independent (UK)Praise for Petra Hammesfahr’s *The Sinner*: “The Sinner is best psychological suspense novel I have read all year.”
- Daily Telegraph “Dubbed Germany’s answer to Patricia Highsmith, Hammesfahr should win new fans with this novel.”
- Publishers Weekly “Demonstrates why she is one of Germany’s bestselling writers of crime and psychological thrillers. It’s grim, delves deep into the human psyche, and keeps you gripped.”
- The Times (London)Nadia and Susanne look uncannily alike, but one of the women is seriously rich and the other is destitute. When Nadia asks Susanne to spend the weekend with her husband so that she can sneak off with a lover, how can Susanne refuse the outrageous payment on offer? Nadia and her husband barely speak to each other and he will be working most of the weekend. Easy money, or so it seems.

One Friday afternoon Susanne drives Nadia’s Alfa to her beautiful suburban villa with its indoor pool and glass doors opening onto the sloping lawn. This first stay is followed by others, as an apparently harmless game becomes a deadly web of lies.

Petra Hammesfahr, born in 1951, has not had an easy life: she left school at thirteen and became pregnant by an alcoholic husband at seventeen. She published her first novel when she was forty and has since written over twenty crime and suspense novels. Petra also writes scripts for television and film. She has won numerous literary prizes, including the Crime Prize of Wiesbaden and the Rhineland Literary Prize.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. A twin-swapping scheme propels this exceptional suspense novel from German bestseller Hammesfahr (The Sinner). After meeting Susanne Lasko, a desperate, unemployed divorcee, by chance, Nadia Trenkler, a stylish Berlin investment counselor, hires Susanne, whom she closely resembles, to spend the weekend with her husband, with whom she barely interacts and who will be busy with his own work, so she can conduct an out-of-town affair. Of course, a lot more is going on than Susanne realizes. For one thing, Marcus Zurkeulen, a shady investor Nadia has been tricking, wants the money she stole from him. When the devious Nadia disappears, Susanne continues the deception with scary results. Hammesfahr does a superb job portraying Susanne's fearful descent into another woman's life. Full of clever and disturbing twists, this dark delight will please Patricia Highsmith fans. (May) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Unemployed and reduced to stealing from her mother's savings, Susanne is desperate for a job, and when her best hope ends in rejection, she thinks all is lost. But that same day, she runs into a woman, Nadia, who uncannily resembles her in every way, except that she has all the money Susanne so desperately needs. Nadia contacts Susanne, and the lonely woman accepts Nadia's offers of coffee and secondhand clothes; later, when Nadia asks her to spend a weekend with her husband so Nadia can be with her lover, Susanne can't refuse the generous amount of money Nadia offers. One weekend soon turns into another as the lies and deception multiply. Gripping, fast paced, and laced with an impending sense of doom, the novel proves once again that German author Hammesfahr (The Sinner, 2008) is a master of the psychological thriller. Those who read The Sinner will be thrilled with another high-quality offering; those new to Hammesfahr will soon understand her popularity in Germany. --Jessica Moyer

I just couldn't finish this book, it started out with a great premise but at some point it just got so boring. I did not finish it and have no desire to pick it up again.

This book was terrible! So convoluted and confusing. Forced myself to finish and still not even clear what the outcome was.

Suzanne Lasko struggles to survive living in a dump in which she cannot pay the rent on time ever since her marriage ended and her teller job terminated for her inability to perform simple tasks. Apparently her mind never fully healed from a car accident several years ago. Her ailing mom lives in a home, so Suzanne who loves her makes up a life with a good paying job and a kind boyfriend. Desperately she does the unthinkable and uses her mom's money to pay her bills. Suzanne arrives at Behringer and partners for an interview. There she runs into her almost identical twin Nadia Trenkler though they are not related as far as either woman knows. Wealthy Nadia hires Suzanne to pose as her with her husband Michael for the weekend while she runs off for a tryst. Their first switch is successful so they do it again and again although Michael suspects something is not quite right with his wife. The concept of twins switching identities is common in movies and books and this latest tale is an adult modernization of the Prince and The Pauper. Suzanne makes the tale with her bewildered mind and abject poverty impeding her fitting in the luxurious lifestyle of Nadia. Although plausibility is somewhat lost due to Michael's actions and reactions and the too frequent switches, readers will enjoy this intriguing psychological suspense thriller. Harriet Klausner

I liked Hammesfahr's "The Sinner" much better than "The Lie". I expected Hammesfahr to give me a better depth of her main character but in this novel I did not entirely understand the protagonist and some of the decisions that she made. This book has a basic storyline that has been done, where two people who look physically alike, meet each other in odd circumstances and decide to switch places for ulterior motives. What Hammesfahr brings to the table is that she likes to throw in twisted traits into her main character and make you feel for them and that is what is supposed to set her story apart from a cliché. The twist happened, but in the end left me feeling like the interaction of the characters were unfinished. The greatest flaw in this story was there really was no goal or big mystery to solve. It's just a story about the character living a lie, which explains the title of the story.

Susanne Lasko is poor. She desperately needs to find a job soon, not just for herself but for her mother, who she is taking care of. Nadia Trenkler is married, rich and has everything Susanne wants. While Susanne was heading to a job interview, she bumped into her twin. Well not really but just about. When Naida first spots Susanne, she believes that they are half sisters. Naida offers Susanne an offer she can't refuse. Naida will pay Susanne if she will pretend to be her, so that she can get away for weekend getaways with her lover. Also as a plus, Susanne will have access to expensive cars, a huge house and lots of money. All things that Susanne could only dream about.

How long will Naida and Susanne be able to keep up their charades before the stakes get too high? The Lie is the first novel I have read by Petra Hammesfahr. After finishing this book, I now want to check out all the rest of her novels. I thought this was a well written novel. The dynamics between Susanne and Naida were strong. I did not expect Susanne to be as strong a character as she turned out to be. The suspense built up as the story progressed. I couldn't stop reading this book. The ending was a twist that I didn't see coming. This book would make a good movie. US readers looking for some one new to read should look no further than Petra Hammesfahr.

Good story, however the characters were one dimensional and not clearly defined ,so I got a bit confused.

Picked this up in the library and then couldn't put it down. Yes, it's twin switching but the complexity is amazingly engaging. I kept wondering how any of them could keep it up. It's really about what one believes and what makes a person a person -- not appearances but actions and values. Do clothes make the person? What's real and what's fake? How do you know?

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