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# **Deceived: Lured From The Truth (Secrets)**



## Synopsis

Seventeen-year-old Rachel is longing for a bit of normalcy. After taking a summer job away from home, she meets a good-looking Australian boy with a similar appreciation for church, family, and a more conservative lifestyle. But before she knows it, Rachel finds herself isolated, afraid, and over her head in a religion that doesn't want to let her go.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Seventeen-year-old Rachel is longing for a bit of normalcy. Instead of staying close to home for the summer, she's taken a job working at a popular vacation spot. It's there she meets good-looking Australian Josiah, an older guy with a similar appreciation for church, family, and a more conservative lifestyle. When her summer job takes a turn for the worst, the opportunity to join Josiah's faith community and find refuge on their property comes at just the right time. But before she knows it, Rachel finds herself isolated, afraid, and over her head in a religion that doesn't want to let her go.

Melody Carlson is the best-selling author of more than two hundred books, including the TrueColors series (TH1NK/NavPress). She has won various awards for her writing, including The Gold Medallion and The Rita. Melody lives in the beautiful Oregon Cascade Mountains with her husband.

I always enjoy Melody Carlson's books. It is always so refreshing to read inspirational fiction for teens. We can easily become deceived when we are looking for someone or some thing (like security and a sense of belonging as in Rachel's case) instead of looking to God first. Although Rachel was a Christian with good morals and refused to participate in the sinful activities of her peers, she unexpectedly got caught up in a cult when she wanted to feel a sense of belonging somewhere. She was rejected by her peers who framed her at work causing her to lose her job and her parents recently divorced and fallen from the Lord. Handsome, charming Josiah came to her rescue and gave her a home at his uncle's church compound. Rachel finally feels like she's in a good place but she must change her wardrobe, her personality, and some of her beliefs in order to belong. She learns that Josiah's uncle's church is not what it should be. His church is cult like and Rachel must escape if she wants to have a life. She learns to rely fully on God. When we put God first in our lives, things will work out well (maybe not perfectly or the way we expect them to) but God will give us a peace that surpasses all understanding.

This is a teen age love story where the girl is very unhappy over the break up of her parents marriage and she falls in love with a young man who is the nephew of a minister involved in a religious cult. She goes to live and work in the housing area of the cult members. They are very strict as to what she can wear, who she can talk to, what she can own. She begins to work in the kitchen where the food is so bland and tasteless. She is unhappy but feels that in this place is the only way to stay near the boy she loves. In the meantime her mom has lost their home so she has no home to go back to. This is a very interesting book, written in a manner that you want to keep reading it, even though you don't believe you would ever be tempted to join a cult. I do enjoy ordering my kindle books through [Amazon](#) as I can preview the beginning of each book to see if I would enjoy reading it.

Personally I don't feel *Deceived* was the best overall story by Melody Carlson, but her most powerful ending that she has written! I felt like the book was pretty slow and was unsure if the book was really about the occult church at all since there was no mention or any sign that the main character would get involved in it. I was disappointed that the main character finally goes to the dairy farm/church until halfway through the book, which I felt was not enough time to gain good momentum as well as have a good ending. One thing that I have noticed throughout this series is that a boyfriend tends to help save the day. I do agree that this does happen in some situations but

not EVERY situation so one thing I really liked about Deceived is that Josiah does not help save the day! I thought it was refreshing and unpredictable. Another thing I really liked was the ending! I thought it was extremely powerful and I didn't suspect the main character to be treated as a prisoner in a prison cell with barely any food or water! What made this ending so powerful though is that her eyes were opened that Jesus is the way, truth, and life and no one can get to Heaven except through Him! I loved how she included Scriptures which I feel is a first in a while that Carlson has included any in her teen books! It also showed that anyone can get deceived by false religious claims. The ending of this story is the main reason I gave the book four stars, otherwise I would have given it three stars.

I started reading this book and I thought it really wasn't going anywhere, I just thought this was a teenager crying like a freaking baby over the decisions her parents made! I kept reading about Rachel, this God loving girl! It started getting interesting when the delivery guy starts coming in the picture! He is smiling and showing interest and she starts to lay out all of her problems, confesses that she loved the Lord and finds him to be her good friend! Well, turn of events and she loses her job and feared that she would have to go back home, Josiah, the delivery guy offers her to come and stay where he resides! He warns her that it is different! Well, she goes to this place and.....Please read this book! It was an eye opener for me and I would recommend this book to teenagers also! The Power of God & Prayer is awesome! This girl is a fighter and a believer!!! Josiah, had me thinking he was shady but turned out to be a good guy!!!READ THIS BOOK.....DECEIVED....SMH!!!

I have read alot of Melody Carlson's books. Most of them are easy reads with a moral to the story. I honestly purchased this book because it was free. While I cannot complain about the price, I was not entirely satisfied with the story line. While I do not want to give anything away, the entire concept of the "camp" did not seem plausible. I also thought the ending was completely far fetched. There is no way any of it would have happened in "real life." All I can say is that I am glad I did not spend any money on this book. The most I lost is an hour of my time.

It was refreshing to read a book that was out of the norm for me. The storyline was well developed, and you could envision the story as you were reading. It's sad to say that although this book may be fiction, the situations in this book are real. Great read!

The entrapment into a cult is so cunning and seemingly wonderful until you get below the surface of what you see and your eyes are opened. Great ending! This was a powerful read.

It was an okay easy read but I figured it out soon after I started reading it. About a girl getting caught up in a cult, behind a guy. I think the cover and the title were deceptive, reading the book I thought the girl was white. And she was a bit silly because duhhh, she fail right into the very thing she ran from.

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