



Laced In Lies

Colleen Helme

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Meet Shelby Nichols, mind reader extraordinaire.

A typical day in the life of Shelby Nichols involves cheating husbands, solving the hardest cases for the police, and working for a big time mob-boss, all because of her little secret that she can read minds. It can get complicated, especially considering she has a husband and two kids.

Ramos, Uncle Joey's hit-man, is reluctant to involve Shelby when an acquaintance from his past comes into town. Uncle Joey has a favor to ask Shelby which involves heading to New York City and meeting his estranged relatives. Then there's Dimples, a police detective, who needs her help finding the person behind a deadly new drug.

It's no wonder Shelby has a hard time keeping everything straight. But the worst is deciding how to explain her crazy, mixed-up life to her kids. So far, her explanations have all been laced in lies, and she worries that, if the truth ever comes out, they will never trust her again.

Of course, none of that matters if she doesn't escape the deadly enemy that takes her by surprise. Facing death has a way of putting things into perspective, if only she can stay alive long enough to appreciate it...

Laced In Lies Details

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Betty says

It was delightful to read another Shelby escapade. In this one, Shelby is helping 'Dimples' in a situation involving drugs. Uncle Joey sends her to New York city along with Miguel as he wants to know Miguel's chances of making as a music star. There are Manetto relatives in New York from which he is estranged. Ramos' past has come back to haunt him. Life has become complicated for Shelby as Josh and Savannah are older and begin to question the relationship with Uncle Joey. Three different elements are pulled together into the story. These series have become a must read. I highly recommend this book and series.

Kimberly says

I listened to all nine again in preparation for book 10 (I'm behind as books 10.5 and 11 are out, ALSO, for those not in the know, *it is not necessary to read/listen to this series in order*. Ms Helme helps the reader know pertinent information from previous books by incorporating that relevant info in each subsequent book.). Oh baby, oh baby, do I love this series!!!

If you are reading this review while unfamiliar with the story line, this series begins as the main character, Shelby Nichols, was grazed in the head by a bank robber's bullet while she was in the grocery store to buy carrots for that night's dinner. This wound is the source event for her ability to read minds -- most other characters think she has premonitions.

Shelby is a stay-at-home wife to an attorney (a newly-made partner to the law firm) and mother of two teenagers. She has also formed a one-woman consulting agency, has become a consultant to the local police department, and has befriended the local mob-boss, his mob organization and his bodyguard / hit man.

Not only does the above make her super-busy, Shelby has a knack for getting herself into questionable situations, kidnapped, and nearly killed at least once in each installment. She usually remains calm, unless there is blood in sight, and usually has Ramos, the hit man, to thank for saving her in time.

In this episode, while there are evil-doers to stop (namely a scum drug dealer posing as the boyfriend of a touring singer selling a concoction which had killed two teens and a string of other involved people), the majority of this book introduces the reader to the mob-boss's extended family and character development of the mob-bosses immediate family. I am guessing this will open more avenues for Shelby to use her mind-reading skills to catch the bad, help the good and save the day!

Once again, the dynamic duo of author Colleen Helme, and narrator Wendy Tremont King addictively bring our sassy Shelby Nichols to life. I am not certain there is another author/narrator duo as well-matched as Ms Helme and Ms King. Ms King is beautifully consistent between all ten books and is excellent in keeping each character's voice distinctive and identifiable -- whether with an Italian accent, a Polynesian accent or with the emotions of the scene.

Geoff Parker says

Laced in Lies is the 10th volume of the Shelby Nichols adventures from Colleen Helme. And Oh my goodness! What a read and what a ride! Literally! In this newest adventure, Shelby has to help her devilishly handsome hitman friend Ramos, who works for Uncle Joey, the Mob Boss. In fact, we find out that an old flame of Ramos', Jody, is now a famous singer. Colleen actually had a song, "Devil Rider" professionally produced as a companion to the book, and it is the song that made Jody famous in the book, and it is about Ramos! Not only that, but it is really, really good, and after you listen to it a few times it is the type of song that starts running through your head!

Laced in Lies has a lot going on. Miguel, Uncle Joey's son, gets called to New York to audition for a broadway production. Shelby has to pose as a relative, as it turns out that there is a New York Manetto family too, and in fact Shelby meets Uncle Joey's long estranged sister.

Along the way are the usual adventures - or is it misadventures? That have made the Shelby Nichols adventures so much fun to read and such an edge of your seat got to find out what happens next roller coaster of a fun ride.

I have been with Shelby for about 7 years now, from when the first book in the series Carrots came out. Colleen has long been a very talented author, starting off years ago with books like Relic and Songbird, which are fantasy novels and exquisitely well written books.

While you can read the adventures in any order, the sophistication, style, and execution of Colleen's writing steadily improves through the series with her successes and her experience, so I do suggest if you are going to read them (hint: you should!) that you read them in order. This is also a good idea as the relationships and complexities of the characters grows and changes and matures throughout the series.

The cost will be forgotten long after the books are purchased and the memories of these books is such that Shelby starts to become as real as life to the reader, and before long you want to know what trouble your friend Shelby will be getting into next. This is a great family series, a great set of books to listen to while flying, driving or commuting, and just plain a great read for any time. I heartily endorse the audible versions of these books as well with narrator Wendy Tremont King, who to my way of thinking IS the voice of Shelby Nichols.

So, for a fast ride on a sleek motorcycle with a devilishly handsome man, a web of lies that gets ever more complicated and has to be resolved somehow, and more action than a John Wayne shooter, try Laced in Lies and the Shelby Nichols adventures. You'll be glad you did.

Lita Acevedo says

I loved this book. As usual trouble has a way of finding Shelby Nichols and she manages to barely escape. This book was actually two stories - one about Miguel and the other about a drug dealer. Shelby was involved in both, but the first story was fluff. It was well written and I thoroughly enjoyed it but it wasn't action or adventure or "who done it?" Miguel is the son of Joey Manetto and he's invited to New York to audition for the part of Aladdin in a Broadway play. For kicks we're introduced to the New York Manetts and given a little backstory about the family. But the second half of the book is typical Shelby Nichols

adventures with her reading minds and getting involved in stuff she should run away from. All ends well with Shelby sustaining a few minor injuries. I enjoy all of the Shelby Nichols adventures and this was no exception. I recommend to everyone who enjoys this genre.

Melissa Hayden says

Colleen is amazing at writing the characters so I love them and I'm drawn into every moment with them. There is something with each scene that keeps me listening to the words. Shelby has amazing chemistry with everyone she meets. Awesome job!

I absolutely love these books and will continue with Shelby and all the characters as long as there are books written!

******FULL REVIEW******

*I was given this free review copy audiobook at my request and have voluntarily left this review.

Shelby's life is always full with the kids and her work as a consultant for Uncle Joey and the police. Her clients cross when she takes a job to follow a friend's husband, and ends up in a bar of a gang that's got an amicable deal with Uncle Joey. She calls for help from Ramos, and afterward finds out Ramos has something going on he doesn't want her involved in, but ultimately needs her skills to help him. Uncle Joey meets her family and wants Shelby to go with his son, Miguel, to New York for his audition in a Broadway musical.

Wow. Wendy is one amazing voice actor. She gives Shelby the full feel of a person. I love the lightness to Shelby yet the complete package that she's well aware of what's happening around her is not good (when in trouble). When Wendy slips into Shelby's persona I feel like I'm watching Shelby as she goes through her day and stumbles into troubles. A wonderful combination of Colleen's writing and Wendy's voice makes me giggle in the right moments and feel the excitement in Shelby. Wonderful job.

Shelby is amazing at getting into trouble. But the best part is, even though she's nervous, she works her way out with quick thoughts. She does have a small consulting business of her own and helps with the cops on special cases, and these sometimes cross into the life that's including Uncle Joey. But if Shelby ever gets in trouble she can call on Ramos for help, and she does.

Goodness! Ramos. He's amazing. If you love dark, sexy men you'll love Ramos. I love the time Shelby and him spend together. They tease each other so well, and mean some of what they say. lol. Harmless flirting...maybe? Sometimes I wonder if Ramos doesn't have his own dose of reading minds ability. He's great at knowing and reading people, and finding them in a crowd. He even makes me smile when that all is focused on Shelby. Oh, Shelby is amazing with her husband too. He's different from Ramos, yet just as sexy. I really love both men when Shelby is with them.

Being part of the family with Uncle Joey is growing to a new level for Shelby with her husband and kids. All starting with the family barbecue that they agreed to when at Miguel's musical. Things have really grown with Uncle Joey personally. This leads us to get to spend time with Miguel, which is really nice. The family feel really comes through strong. There are ties that are reconnected and ties that grow to bring a big family feel to the whole story.

Colleen is amazing at writing the characters so I love them and I'm drawn into every moment with them.

There is something with each scene that keeps me listening to the words. Shelby has amazing chemistry with everyone she meets. Awesome job!

I absolutely love these books and will continue with Shelby and all the characters as long as there are books written!

Genea says

Aptly named title. Of course "half truths" isn't new territory for Shelby, but the amount of lies racked up in this Shelby Nichols adventure could cause anyone major whiplash for a lifetime. And notice there I didn't attribute these lies solely to Shelby. Even though she was the one doling out those staggering amount of lies, she was doing most of them on behalf of others and as always to protect her secret of hearing peoples thoughts. I decided to cut her some slack, because a lot of the trouble she found herself in this time, was just her being a good friend. Uncle Joey, mob boss extraordinaire was an even bigger cause for a lot of Shelby's troubles this time around, so I will put a lot of the blame on him. He's really digging her deeper into his world and I'm afraid of what's ahead for Shelby, and her family as well.

Speaking of trouble, it was really freaky how much she got herself into this time around and no kidding, all she did was just sit there and trouble found her. The phrase, "How does she do it" has a very different connotation when it comes to Shelby. Yes she juggles family and career like a pro, but how does she get herself kidnapped by gunpoint twice in one day, how does she get out of a getting busted in a huge lie, how does she get out of a scary situation with a dangerous gang, how many times is she going to get herself into embarrassing moments, and the list goes on. She does all this because she is total a badass, that's how. To get out of so many life threatening situations, one has to be badass, have a million and one lives and a guardian angel. Perhaps one who rides a motorcycle, is scorching hot and is all badassery and then-some, and they call him Ramos. He did come to her rescue a few times as per usual, but Shelby is getting better at saving herself. I was very proud of her a few times in this escapade.

Okay, so that was just me fangirling but I just love this series. It's a really fun, laugh out loud read every time, I'm always so pumped for the next book. I'm sorry to say this Shelby, but I am very happy you went to buy those carrots. Okay, so that was a lie, I'm not sorry, your bad luck has become my enjoyment. And now I await your next adventure in anxious anticipation.

Tere J says

I became a fan of Shelby, oh, who am I kidding, of Ramos, after the first couple of books. I read all thus far. Some I really enjoyed, some were ok, and this falls back into the okay side for me. I am very critical, and decided, what really makes a good book review, so I wanted to take everything into consideration.

So these novels continue with the same formula, Shelby doing a favor, a job, and surprise, she gets into trouble, and surprise Ramos rescues her - perhaps my tastes are changing. I gave it the "I Liked It/3 star" vs "It's OK/2 star" because I have loved the earlier books.

Like the title suggest, the lies continues for Shelby. This book had 2 main stories happening, and by reading the bio, you would think this is about Ramos, honestly, the only reason I purchased (cause I felt the same

way about this, as I did her last book), but the book takes a turn, and more than half the book is about Miguel & Shelby.

So Ramos' past comes back, and Shelby wants to help, Uncle Joey feels Ramos needs Shelby's help and he asks her to spy on Ramos, which of course doesn't work, but when Shelby helps Ramos that 1 time, he wants to handle this alone, and off to NYC goes Shelby with Miguel. This is where more than 1/2 the book is centered about Miguel's audition, and honestly, I felt it was a big commercial for Aladdin. The way Shelby read the director's mind, and how a new lead would bring people back to see the play - and as a play lover - never would I imagine this 'thought' process, other than marketing for a play. Hence I felt it was an advertisement for Aladdin. Oh, and there are a TON of lies happening in NYC. Honestly, I lost track of the lies, and really who was lying to who, and the main lie on Shelby's identity, was a bit much, and it just felt awkward (to me) vs funny.

So now we're at 75% and back to Ramos. This author can, and has wrapped up a story in a page or 2, and I felt that was going to happen. I felt there was no way the level of detail for the Aladdin story line would be involved for Ramos, and it didn't. There's are 2 obvious cliff hangers, so not sure if that will be the storylines involved in the next book.

What I guess has had me eye rolling a bit, and perhaps making this my last purchase is the same true formula of the story . Shelby is torn between lying, but she continues to be lusting after Ramos. Trust me, I have no moral compass, and I'm not saying they should have an affair, but it's getting old. The other eye roll is she always finds herself in a predicament that Ramos has to save her from. Ok, we're beating to death the damsel in distress. This book mentioned she was a level 5 in her karate, whatever she's doing, so I thought, ok, that will come into play, and nope. She continues to be clueless. Then her stun flashlight. I mean, if you were shot at twice now, kidnapped/taken every single job you go do, perhaps you'd want to protect yourself a little better than a stun flashlight & always calling Ramos. Honestly, the part where she was taken this time, and she's struggling for her cell, to go to contacts, find Ramos, vs dialing 9-1-1. I get the hero thing, and again, LOVE Ramos, but honestly, I'm getting a we bit frustrated with Shelby's ineptness in protecting herself.

Miriam Bizzarro says

Great read!

I enjoy reading about Shelby's mishaps and how she balances good and evil and her justifications for her actions. The strong attraction for Ramos, and even stronger bond with her family. Great adventures, and page turning interest in the story line and characters.

Sabrina says

A lot of little things happening that converge into a explosive ending.

First Shelby is trying to help a old school friend and of course gets into a sticky situation. Ramos to the rescue.

Uncle Joey needs her to accompany Miguel to New York for a Broadway audition and she meets some of Uncle Joey's long lost family. Lots of secrets are exposed and brought to light.

Dimples needs help with a drug case and his personal life.

Ramos needs help but won't admit it or accept any help when offered. Secrets of his past are revealed that make you love him even more.

Colleen Helme weaves all these little background stories and others into a really exciting and surprise ending. And of course, leaves you on the edge of your seat in anticipation for the next book.

Several little things have been set into motion for the next book and I can't wait to see how it all plays out.

As always a exciting, funny, nail biting, laugh out loud, thoughtful and leaves you wanting more story. Well done.

Evie53 says

So glad Shelby's back!

Always good to catch up with Shelby, Ramos, Uncle Joey, Chris, and Dimples! As if reading minds isn't a big enough life complication Shelby is juggling working for herself, the mob, and the local police-while trying to be a good wife and mother. Great light reading, some of the situations she gets into have me laughing out loud. One of my favorite series it just keeps getting better.

Di says

Wonderful story line

Shelby continues to get into trouble without even looking for it. She does have a great trip to New York with Miguel and meets some of Joe's relatives. Back at home, she helps Ramos with a meeting of an old girlfriend. Things get complicated. The Plot moves quickly, but does have enough description. I really liked the segment at the old Hotel in New York. I bet another story will take place, ace there and the singing ghost is sure to be returning. This is a five star read and I liked how we learn more about Joe's extended family.

Jerri Cachero says

Laced in Lies finds Shelby and company dealing with mobsters (of course!), Polynesian gangs, Ramos' old girlfriend (who has a surprise), drug dealers, an audition for the starring role in Aladdin on Broadway and meeting the " family" she never knew existed!

A fast- paced mystery with three different mysteries that somehow blend together perfectly. Shelby's character worries about her family, her "familia" and most things everyday people worry over...except she also is concerned about her "gift" and how it will affect her family if the kids find out. The mystery, humor, romance, everyday life adventures as well as the trouble Shelby's "gift" gets her into always entertains. I love the Uncle Joey and Jackie characters, Ramos, Dimples and her husband Chris. I do wonder what's in store for the next book...questions were raised that will be hard to answer!

You don't have to start at the beginning, but it makes the boooks more entertaining! Enjoy!!

Jeanie Jackson says

Outstanding, wonderful, awesome and Wow! Colleen Helme is an amazing author and Laced in Lies is a wonderful example of her talent. Shelby probably felt like she was riding a hot air balloon through a wind storm! And I was right there beside her the whole way! From emotional to thrilling to terrifying to humiliating she is pulled so many directions at once. I swear if it is possible my crush on Ramos got even bigger and I am sure hers did too as we discover just a bit more about his background. A friend needs her help for a relative, Dimples needs her for a drug investigation and for his fiance, Uncle Joe needs her help for Miguel, her family need her attention, Ramos doesn't want to need her help but he does, and Chris's secretary needs to be reminded that he is taken.

I can not believe this is the 10th book in the series that started with Carrots. It is best adventure yet! And be sure to look for the song Colleen Helme write for this book, Devil Rider on YouTube. The link is on her FB page.

Dottie Williams says

Awesome book!

Love the Shelby Nichols series! Always keeps you on your toes! Cannot wait for the next one! Thanks Coleen for another one

Stephanie P says

(Written in July 2017 for my blog) I fell in love with the Shelby Nichols Adventure series by author Colleen Helme while recovering recently from an injured ankle. I had purchased a Kindle copy of the first book in the series, Carrots, quite awhile back on Amazon but had never gotten around to reading it. While looking for my next audiobook to listen to on Audible, Carrots was recommended to me and it showed that I could

get the audiobook at a greatly reduced price since I already owned the Kindle version.

I am SO glad that I decided to buy the audio version. I quickly continued on through the series and was definitely binge-listening while recovering. I had gotten through the first 9 audiobooks during that time.

About a week ago, I got an offer to receive a copy of the Laced In Lies audiobook for free in exchange for an honest review, so here it is. Like I said, however, I did purchase the previous 9 audiobooks as well as the first book also in Kindle form. I am definitely looking forward to book 11. I cannot wait to see where this story goes from here.

Anyway, I totally recommend this whole series and suggest that you start at the beginning for the best experience.

Books of the Shelby Nichols Adventure series in order:

Carrots
Fast Money
Lie or Die
Secrets That Kill
Trapped By Revenge
Deep In Death
Crossing Danger
Devious Minds
Hidden Deception
Laced In Lies

How this Book is Different From the Rest of the Series:

Laced In Lies was a bit different from the other books in the series. While it still had the basic idea of Shelby being asked to help someone (either the police, the mob, or through her consulting agency), things going terribly wrong, and then her usually being saved by Ramos in the end... this book also was beefed up quite a bit with a lot more character development, several new characters to draw from in future adventures, and a major part of Ramos' backstory. While I found this particular book to be a little slower than the others because of all of the previously mentioned development, I truly appreciated this new insight into Ramos as well as the expanded "family" we met.

Why I Love this Book and the Series:

This series is a cozy mystery series, which is my favorite genre. I appreciate the fact that it does not go into the gritty details of the intimate activities, the murders, or the other crimes. A lot is simply left for you to either imagine yourself (if that is your desire) or get right on to what I consider the good parts. ? To each his own, I guess. This is definitely my preference, though.

The premise (without really spoiling anything) is that something happens to Shelby in book one that causes her to be able to read people's thoughts. This, as you can imagine, can cause a lot of problems in your life... especially if you have a tendency to accidentally let it slip from time to time and usually to the wrong people. Shelby is trying to use her new skill for good, but that usually lands her in some really bad situations.

Shelby is a lovable character who is down-to-earth and who most people would love to have as a friend, even though she seems to be a magnet for danger. I do wish that she would learn to protect herself a bit more in the future, though.

If you are a lover of books that have some amazing character development, then this series is for you. Shelby's knack for getting into trouble and eventually out of it reminds me a lot of some of my other cozy mystery favorites: Odelia Grey Mysteries, Stephanie Plum (at least the earlier books), Davis Way Crime Capers, Malibu Mysteries, and the High Heels Mysteries. If you are a fan of any of those, you will surely be a fan of Shelby Nichols Adventures.

Along with also having several story lines that merge together in the end and give you the thrill of a quality mystery, it also always somehow works out in the end. It definitely says something if the readers find themselves rooting for the "bad guys", too. At least the ones that Shelby is connected to: Ramos, Uncle Joey, and the rest of the crew.

Audiobook or in Print – Which Do I Recommend?

While it ultimately depends on your personal preference (audio or print), I honestly recommend the audiobooks because the narrator is amazing! She has quickly risen to the top my favorites. I could (and actually did while recovering) listen to Wendy Tremont King all day long. She really brings the characters to life and feels like you are listening to a movie or something.
