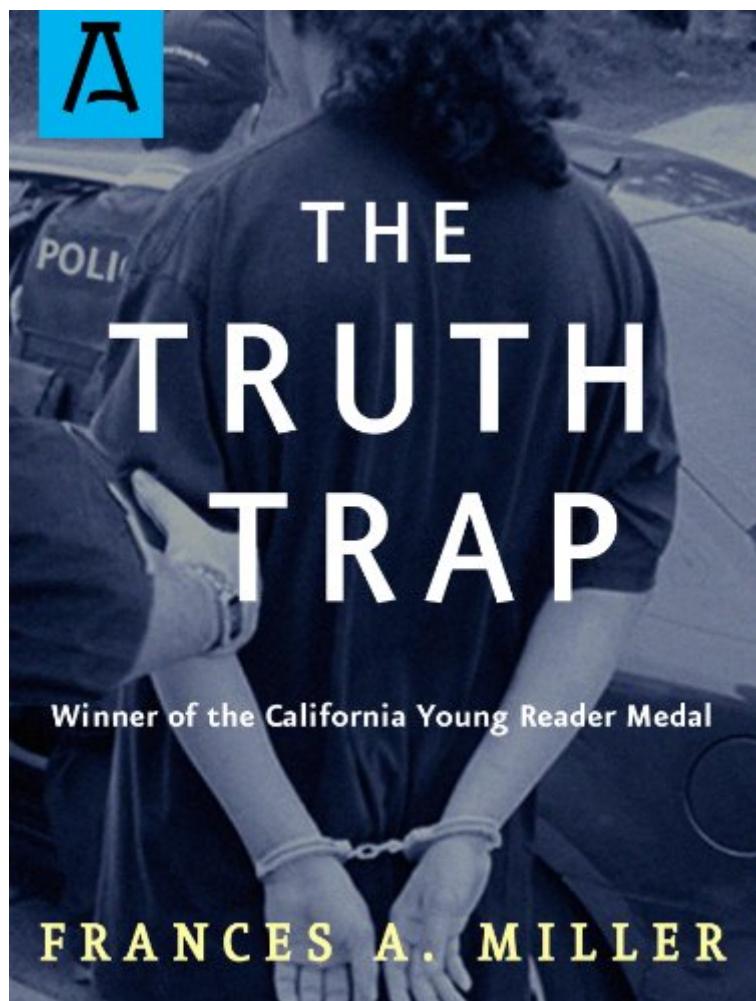


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# The Truth Trap



## **Synopsis**

Winner of the California Young Reader Medal in the high school category and an ALA Best Book of the Year. Following the death of his parents in a car accident, fifteen-year-old Matt McKendrick runs away from his hometown with his small, deaf sister, Katie, to prevent her from being placed in an institution. Reaching Los Angeles exhausted and hungry, they take refuge in an abandoned theater. When Matt returns to the theater after an unsuccessful day hunting for work, he finds Katie gone and the police waiting to accuse him of murder. Alone in a city of strangers, Matt sets out on a desperate questâ "fighting suspicion, hatred, and his own unbearable remorse and self-doubtâ "to prove to himself and to the Homicide detective who despises him that he is who he says he is. Â The Truth Trap is the first book in the series.

## **Book Information**

File Size: 652 KB

Print Length: 206 pages

Publisher: Open Road Distribution (March 8, 2016)

Publication Date: March 8, 2016

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01BWA2FLI

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,019,962 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #77 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Children's eBooks > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Runaways #118 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Runaways #142 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Orphans & Foster Homes

## **Customer Reviews**

The Truth Trap by Frances Miller is the first book in a series of four. I've read it three times now. I have used it in my high school classes and the students love it. It is about a teenage boy and the

problems he finds himself in because of his rash decisions and withholding the truth. The students can relate to it. Many of my students are reluctant readers but not with this book. Some have ordered it and the other three from .

Amazing book - it's the first in a series of 4 and I highly recommend them all. I read the final book when I was in junior high and then years later in college I found the series on and was finally able to read the first three. I don't know why this author isn't more well known. These books are very well-written, realistic and powerful. Great story!

I absolutely loved this book. It was one of the best books I have read in a long time. I just ordered the other three through the mail. I love books where a kid is given a chance. I am not going to give the book away or anything, but I will encourage anybody to read this book, because it has a little bit of everything that I enjoy in a book. All I will say is Matt is a strong kid to go through what he went through and will not let anybody keep him down. He is a fighter.

"The Truth Trap" is one of the best young adult novels of the last decade. A hard-hitting look at the pain and suffering of Matt McKendrick, the novel shows his attempt to survive the murder of his sister. Adding to that difficulty is the fact that he is the police's primary suspect! Having taught this book for a number of years, I can tell you that the scene in jail is enough to convince any male teenager not to commit a crime; it's unforgettable. Matt is a survivor, however, and he fights back against the loss of his sister and his reputation. An excellent page-turner, "The Truth Trap" will keep you up at night until you finish. My sole warning to the reader: there are three sequels, and the murder mystery is not solved at the end of the first novel (which sometimes angers my students, until I tell them that the sequels are in our school library!).

Matt McKendrick is without a doubt one of the best characters I have ever met in the pages of a novel. He is so real. Frances Miller is an amazing writer. Her books are exciting, funny, sad. After reading her books (The Truth Trap is the first of a four-part series) you walk away with new friends.

The Truth Trap was one of my favorite books as a teenager. From the very beginning the reader is drawn into Matt's story, rooting for him all the way. The trilogy is well worth the read, but reader/parents beware: there is a gang rape scene when Matt is in prison. It is not terribly graphic, but may raise questions in more naive kids.

I first read this book about five or six years ago and loved it. My friends bought me the sequels, and they're great, too. ("Aren't You the One Who...?", "Losers and Winners", and "Cutting Loose"). I've reread "The Truth Trap" a few times, always looking in the library for it, and I'm finally going to buy it now. Amazingly, each time I read it I find something new: another nuance, another aspect of emotion. Miller is a great author, giving the reader deep looks into the characters' personalities and emotions. Her plots are unbeatable for excitement and interest. Having read each of the four books about Matt McKendrick a few times, I still find myself getting teary-eyed. Sometimes I just skim the book, looking for all the good parts (many per book). I strongly recommend these books!

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