



2007

### Rumors: A Luxe Novel

Larysa Bordner

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Godbersen, Anna. *Rumors: A Luxe Novel*. HarperCollins, 2008. ISBN 9780061345692. \$17.99. 423 p.

Reviewer: Larysa Bordner

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Juvenile Fiction; Historical fiction;

Subject: Social classes--Juvenile fiction; Secrets--Juvenile fiction; Love--Juvenile fiction;

Books--Reviews;

The story of Elizabeth Holland continues in *Rumors*, the sequel to *The Luxe*. The stories of her sister Diana, her friend Penelope Hayes, and her former maid Lina (Carolina Broud) are also included, as their plots overlap and give greater insight into each other. The “death” of Elizabeth Holland sets many things into motion: Diana and Henry pursue their secret relationship, Penelope fights for Henry’s affections with every trick she knows, Lina climbs the social ladder of New York, and Elizabeth runs away to California to escape the path that has been chosen for her. Each girl has her secrets that she desperately tries to conceal from the others. When these secrets are revealed, everything will and does change for the girls who lives are so closely entwined.

Godbersen continues her writing style from *The Luxe* in *Rumors* by cleverly interweaving the stories within each other. Each story has is somewhat depressing as every person seems to continually find stumbling blocks placed in their way as they try to succeed in society. Even though this may be realistic to the way life can sometimes be, the story has a heartbreaking feel which worsens to the very last page. The book also contains many grown-up situations, including mortality, and is therefore intended to be read by older audiences. *Rumors* will leave readers aching for the characters and craving to know what will happen to them next.

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