



Rebecca Forster

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## SILENT WITNESS

Josie Bates has a full plate caring for a troubled teen, but it's about to get fuller when her ex-cop lover, Archer, is accused of murdering his disabled stepson – a son Josie never knew he had. When Timothy Wren died at California's oldest amusement park it appeared to be a tragic accident. But now Timothy's biological father and the district attorney are out for blood. Is this a criminal action with merit, a vendetta or is there a big cash settlement in the offing? For Josie the stakes are higher – it's personal. Racing against time to prove someone is framing Archer, her faith in him is tested by his honesty regarding his feelings about his stepson. Finally, she finds the truth lies with not in Archer's words but with a long-forgotten silent witness.

**1. We all say we want complete honesty.**

Should Archer have lied to his dying wife about his willingness to care for her mentally challenged son? What would have been the consequences - good and bad - of that choice? For Tim? Archer? Josie?

**2. Money played a large role in this story.**

Would a monetary settlement have eased Collin's grief? Was Archer's offer to pay for Tim's care cold or practical?

**3. Lexi was proven to be cruel and calculating.**

How did this diminish her as a mother? As Archer's wife? When she pulled the restraint, was she motivated by true love for her child, hatred for her husband, or despair? Did you have any sympathy for her?

**4. Jude and Josie are on opposite sides of the legal fence and yet must work together for what they want.**

How are they the same? How are they different? Is Josie more ethical than Jude?

**5. Women seem to be given preference in matters of child custody.**

Why is it assumed that a mother is a better parent than a father? Why do women seem to automatically receive emotional support in a divorce? Can the courts legislate a change or must it come from society?

**6. Archer is devastated by Lexi's duplicity.**

What happens next? Should he reach out to Collin? Would showing Collin the letters help him or strengthen his bitterness? Would it prolong Archer's pain?