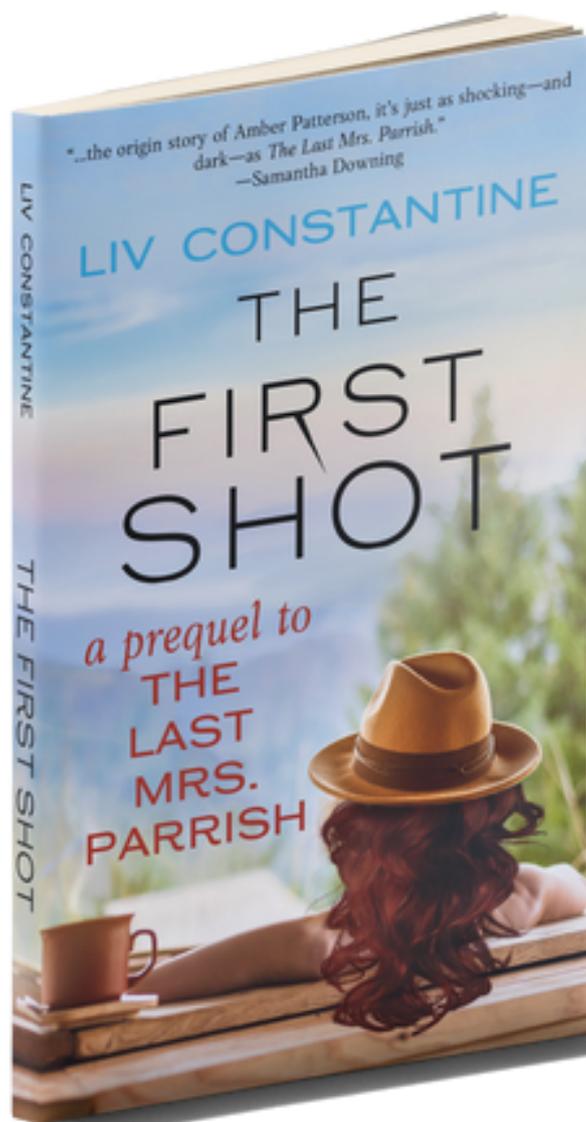


BONUS CONTENT



Amber's Playlist



Unstoppable, Sia

Killer Queen by Queen

No Body No Crime, Taylor Swift

You're so Vain, Carly Simon

Smooth Operator, Sade

Rich Girl, Gwen Stefani

Lyin Eyes, Eagles

Soak up the Sun, Sheryl Crow

Shake it Off, Taylor Swift

No Scrubs, TLC

Confident, Demi Lovato

Juice, Lizzo

AMBER'S GUIDE TO WINNING

Know Your Target's Weaknesses

- **Study them closely:** Pay attention to what they value, what they're insecure about, and any weaknesses that might give you an advantage.
- **Mirror their desires:** Pretend to share their likes and dislikes. Make them think you're sympatico
- **Be their confidant:** Build trust by listening sympathetically; show empathy and concern.

Build a Perfect Public Image

- **Dress the part:** Blend in but be a cut above. Invest in yourself, it will be worth it.
- **Control the narrative:** Carefully curate what others see and hear, avoiding any hint of vulnerability or inconsistency in your story.
- **Control your emotions:** Never show your real feelings. Hide anger, disparagement, ridicule or hatred.

Appear Vulnerable When Necessary

- **Use sympathy to disarm:** People are suckers. Pretend to be vulnerable, make them want to help you and protect you.
- **Play the victim:** When others feel sorry for you, they overlook your mistakes. Make them think they're in a position to help you, all the while laughing inside.

Use Flattery and Charm

- **Appeal to egos:** People love being told how wonderful they are. Wrap them around your little finger when you make them believe you worship them.
- **Master nonverbal cues:** Use body language, eye contact, and subtle touches that convey your "interest" and make others more willing to bend to your will.

Act Patiently, but Strike Fast

- **Slowly build trust:** Invest time into relationships, carefully building trust without rushing the process.
- **Seize the moment:** When an opportunity arises, act decisively and without hesitation, catching others off guard.

Cover Your Tracks

- **Never leave evidence:** Be meticulous about erasing any trace of your lies—delete messages, cover your online activity, and avoid any paper trails.
- **Have an alibi ready:** Always have a fallback plan to explain away any suspicion, keep your story tight and your tracks invisible.

Manipulate Emotions to Gain Control

- **Play on their fears:** Subtly provoke anxiety or jealousy to maintain a grip on your target's emotions.
- **Gaslight if necessary:** If anyone suspects you, make them doubt themselves, downplaying their concerns and making them question their own intuition.

Maintain an Air of Mystery

- **Never reveal too much:** Keep details about yourself vague. This makes people more intrigued and, ironically, more trusting.
- **Use curiosity to reel them in:** Reveal just enough to keep people curious and wanting more, holding their interest tightly.

Be Bulletproof

- **Read widely:** Be proficient in and able to discuss a wide variety of topics. Know your subject well enough to ask intelligent questions that impress.
- **Visit museums and attend lectures and concerts:** Be adept at participating in conversations about classical music and art history. This will make you an insider and not an outsider; someone whose opinion is valued.
- **Keep abreast of world news:** Know what is going on in the entire world, not just your small part of it. This will give you the added bonus of ferreting out opportunities that you might otherwise miss.

Amber's Reading List for Getting Ahead

How to Win Friends and Influence People, Dale Carnegie

The 48 Laws of Power, Robert Greene

The Prince, Niccolò Machiavelli

The Art of War, Sun Tzu

The Like Switch: An Ex-FBI Agent's Guide to Influencing, Attracting, and Winning People Over
by Jack Schafer

The Art of Manipulation: How to Get Anybody to Do What You Want by R. B. Sparkman

The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business by Charles Duhigg

*The Wisdom of Psychopaths: What Saints, Spies, and Serial Killers Can Teach Us About
Success* by Kevin Dutton

*Pulling Your Own Strings: Dynamic Techniques for Dealing with Other People and Living Your
Life As You Choose* by Wayne W. Dyer

Amber's Favorite Fiction

Anna Karenina, Leo Tolstoy

Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austin

Rebecca, Daphne du Maurier

Dracula, Bram Stoker

Dangerous Liaisons Pierre Choderlos de Laclos

The House of Mirth, Edith Wharton

Macbeth, William Shakespeare

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, Stieg Larsson



An Interview with George Humphries, Lana Crump's aka Amber's 12th grade English teacher

Q. Mr. Humphries, Lana Crump was one of your 12th grade English students. What kind of student was she?

A. Lana was without question one of the finest students I've taught over the course of my career. She had a fierce intelligence and was a voracious reader. She came to 12th grade having already read most of the books on our syllabus. In fact, her reading appetite extended far beyond even most college syllabi.

Q. Were there any particular genres she was especially interested in?

A. It's interesting. Often a student will show a special affinity for certain authors or time periods, etc., but Lana's tastes were broad and diverse. She did love biographies, especially the Horatio Alger kind of true stories, of men and women starting from seemingly nothing and rising to the absolute heights of their ability.

Q. What were some of her other favorites?

A. Lana read as much non-fiction as she did fiction. Of course, our class was focused on literature, but Lana often came to me for recommendations on books outside of the classroom – books on art history, on music and the great composers. She read a great deal of poetry as well. It always seemed to me as if

Lana was determined to gather all the components of a classical education and steep herself in that.

Q. It sounds as if she must have participated enthusiastically in class discussions.

A. Well, that's where there was a divide. It was quite apparent that Lana was bored by the classroom discussion. I'd often see her roll her eyes at other student's comments and opinions, and granted, Lana's analyses and scholarship were far above theirs, but her impatience was glaring and something the rest of the class resented.

Q. Lana never went on to university. Why do you think that is? And does that surprise you?

A. It both surprises and doesn't surprise me. It would have to have been a superior institution for the likes of Lana, an institution that would have been able to really challenge her. Of course, those schools exist, but I doubt her family would have had the resources for a Harvard or a Brown or a Princeton. She definitely would have been a scholarship candidate, but there was also the unfortunate incident and court case that led her down a different path, and I understand she left Blue Springs a few years later.

Q. Have you seen or heard from her since she left?

A. I have not, and I do miss those after school discussions we used to have – always so stimulating and incisive. But I have no doubt that I will one day see her name in print for some incredible achievement. Lana was made for big things.

Interview with Lana Crump's aka Amber's sister Trudy

Q. Good morning, Trudy. You're the second of four Crump sisters, is that right?

A. Yes, that's right. Lana is the oldest. She's four years older than I am. We have two younger sisters, Crystal and Megan, who are twins.

Q. Were you and Lana close growing up?

A. When I was little, she would read to me and teach me stuff. I always knew if I had a question about anything, Lana would have the answer. She's really smart. But later, well, I wouldn't say Lana was close to any of us. She didn't really pay much attention to us. Except she did like to play school, and she was always the teacher. Really strict too.

Q. What was your home life like?

A. Pretty normal, I guess you'd say. We didn't have a huge house, but it was okay and our mom kept it nice. We never went without, although Lana never thought it was enough. Said we were poor and pitiful and that she hated being part of such a "low class" family as she called it. The four of us shared a bedroom, and Lana despised that. She screwed a rod up on the wall and hung a curtain so that her portion of the room would be private. She told us we were pigs and that she couldn't stand to look at all the mess on our side of the room.

Q. It sounds like she was unhappy at home.

A. I'll say. Our parents both worked at the family laundromat and so did us kids when we were old enough. I liked it. It was nice to have the extra money, but Lana hated it. It made her angry that Dad made her work there. I think she hated him. And Mom as well. She only spoke to anyone when it was absolutely necessary. Most of the time she just stayed in her curtained room and ignored everyone.

Q. She had a baby when she was 19 and lived here with him for few years until she left for good. What was that time like?

A. Little Mattie was so precious. He was the sweetest, most adorable baby ever, but Lana wanted nothing to do with him. She said he was the biggest mistake she ever made and had ruined her life. We girls and Mom took care of him. Afterward, the Lockwood's got custody of Mattie. We all miss him terribly.

Q. Are there any last thoughts you'd like to express about your sister?

A. Other than playing school, Lana never did much with us. Crystal, Megan and I played Barbie's a lot. One day we came home from school and found the heads cut off of all of our Barbie dolls. Lana had put all the heads in a pile and burned them in the back yard. She thought it was hysterically funny. She didn't care at all that we were upset. But still, I guess I would just say that there was a time I hoped she might come back and be different. Be a good mother and try to be a part of our family. But we've heard nothing from her, not even a card for her son at Christmas or on his birthday. No money ever sent to help my parents take care of Mattie when he lived with us. We are a happy family and we love each other, and it makes me sad to say it, but we are much better off without Lana. I, for one, hope she never comes back.

Interview with Matthew Lockwood, Lana's aka Amber's Ex

Q. Thank you for agreeing to meet with me. You dated Lana for a few months in the summer a few years ago, is that right?

A. Yes. It was the biggest mistake of my life. It's because of her that I'm in this chair now. She's a liar and a manipulator. I wish I'd never met her.

Q. I can see that you're upset, do you need a moment?

A. No, I'm fine. I want everybody to know the truth about her.

Q. Okay. Can you tell me how everything started?

A. She started hanging out at the pool where I was lifeguarding. Parading around in skimpy bikinis, flirting. I didn't really pay much attention at first. I had a girlfriend. But she wasn't around that summer. Lana was her friend. Or at least pretended to be. That's a whole nother story. Anyway, one day Lana asked me to give her a ride home. Said her car had broken down.

Q. Go on.

A. (Sighs) Well, one thing led to another. She, um, sort of took it upon herself to, you know, perform...do I have to spell it out?

Q. She performed oral sex on you?

A. Yeah. So, you know, she pressured me to take her out after that. So, we went out a few more times, and I ended up sleeping with her. I'm not proud of it. But she *is* hot and I was weak. She told me she was on the pill. But the whole time she wanted to get pregnant. And then she did.

Q. Then what happened?

A. She wanted me to marry her. I mean, I didn't love her. It was clear she was just after my family's money. My mother told me she'd handle it. My girlfriend came back, and I told her what happened. She forgave me, and I told Lana it was over. The next thing I knew, Lana accused me of rape.

Q. The sex was consensual?

A. Of course! I'm not a rapist. She was the aggressor. But it didn't matter. She poured on the water works and put on a performance worthy of an academy award. I was convicted. Sent to prison. Was there for two years before her mother came forward to say Lana had lied. I got stabbed while I was in there, and now I'm confined to a wheelchair all because of her!

Q. I'm so sorry for everything you've gone through. Lana had a son, correct?

A. Yes, Mattie. He's the only good thing to come out of this. He lives with me and my wife. We adore him.

Q. Are you worried Lana will come back and try to get custody?

A. She doesn't give a crap about him. She left as soon as there was a warrant out for her for perjury. I don't think she'll come back. But if she does, I'll make sure she never gets near my son.