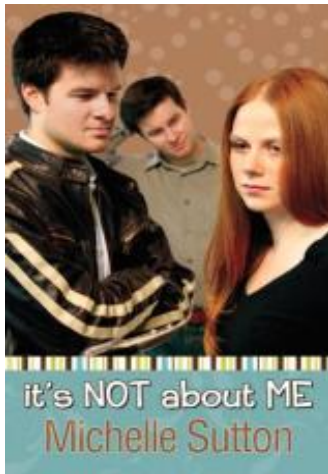


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# It's Not About Me: Second Glances Series, Book 1

by Michelle Sutton

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## About the Book

Annie has it all. She's attractive, graduated with honors, was accepted at the college of her choice, has supportive parents, good friends, and a steady boyfriend who loves her. The focus of her life is to please everyone and not make any waves. Her reputation means everything to her.

But one night Annie's safe world is shattered. As she fights to put the pieces of her broken life back together, against her will she is caught in a war between two brothers, both of whom claim to have her best interests at heart.

Who will Annie choose? And will she finally come to know the One whose love will never fail, even in her darkest hour? Will she learn the truth about life --- that it's not about "me"?

## Discussion Guide

1. Annie is a good daughter and tries to live a moral life, but she has difficulty saying no because she doesn't want to hurt others. How can this be a bad thing in relationships? How does it influence the choices she makes? Is Annie in love with Tony, or more the idea of being in love?
2. Tony has a problem with pornography and it has changed the dynamics of his relationship with Annie. How would you feel if you found out your relationship was affected by pornography or another addiction? What would you do about it?
3. Dan steps in and befriends Annie when his brother abandons her. Was this the right thing for him to do? Can you really be "just friends" with someone you are very attracted to?
4. After the attack, Annie discovers her faith was not only weak, but had no foundation. Do you think Dan did the right

thing by gently confronting her with this concern? Did you agree with his mother's statement about not judging, or are you more inclined to agree with Dan's perspective on how to deal with friends you think may be 'lost'?

5. Tony realizes he has a problem with alcohol and needs help. Do you have anyone in your life right now who is out of control and needs treatment for an addiction? How do you think you could go about encouraging him or her to consider getting professional help?

6. At graduation from Teen Challenge Tony finds out his brother became emotionally and physically involved with his girlfriend. Do you agree with how he handled it? Were his anger and his actions toward Dan justified?

7. Susie comes up with some significant lies in an effort to break up Annie and Dan's relationship, including trying to make Annie believe Susie had a relationship with him. Did Dan do the right thing by trying to help Susie despite the risk to his relationship with Annie? Why or why not?

8. Annie has to go court and testify at her attacker's sentencing hearing. Tony and Dan rally to support her. How did this play a role in the healing of the brothers' relationship?

9. Tony agrees to give Annie some space when he goes to college. Do you think it was right for them to keep in touch by e-mail? Do you think Annie did the right thing by letting him go?

10. The ring plays a significant role in this story as a symbol of healing. Should Dan have given her a different ring when he proposed? Why or why not?

## Author Bio

Michelle Sutton, otherwise known as the Edgy Inspirational Author, is a member of American Christian Fiction Writers and volunteer officer on the ACFW board. She is a social worker by day and prolific reader/book reviewer and author the rest of the time. She lives in Arizona with her husband of nearly eighteen years and her two teenage sons.

## Critical Praise

**"It's Not About Me** is a must read for every young adult in today's world, boy or girl. Not only does it explore in depth the intense sexual pressures placed upon today's youth, but also the serious effects of alcoholism and rape. More importantly, it addresses issues of true faith and Christianity which cut at the core of our beliefs, issues such as what does it really mean to follow Jesus? Does going to church or even being a pastor's son make you a Christian? As you follow the lives and the arduous love triangle of three young adults, Annie, Tony, and Dan, you'll not only fall in love with them, you'll cry with them, yearn along side them and weep for their heartaches and struggles. Kudos to Michelle Sutton for addressing such timely topics with such finesse."

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