

More Than You'll Ever Know

by Katie Gutierrez



About the Book

An evocative drama about a woman caught leading a double life after one husband murders the other, and the true-crime writer who becomes obsessed with telling her story --- this masterful work of literary suspense marks the debut of an extraordinary new writer.

The dance becomes an affair, which becomes a marriage, which becomes a murder...

In 1985, Lore Rivera marries Andres Russo in Mexico City, even though she is already married to Fabian Rivera in Laredo, Texas, and they share twin sons. Through her career as an international banker, Lore splits her time between two countries and two families --- until the truth is revealed and one husband is arrested for murdering the other.

In 2017, while trawling the internet for the latest, most sensational news reports, struggling true-crime writer Cassie Bowman encounters an article detailing that tragic final act. Cassie is immediately enticed by what is *not* explored: Why would a woman --- a *mother* --- risk everything for a secret double marriage? Cassie sees an opportunity --- she'll track Lore down and capture the full picture, the choices, the deceptions that led to disaster. But the more time she spends with Lore, the more Cassie questions the facts surrounding the murder itself. Soon, her determination to uncover the truth could threaten to derail Lore's now quiet life --- and expose the many secrets both women are hiding.

Told through alternating timelines, MORE THAN YOU'LL EVER KNOW is both a gripping mystery and a wrenching family drama. Presenting a window into the hearts of two very different women, it explores the many conflicting demands of marriage and motherhood, and the impossibility of ever truly knowing someone --- especially those we love.

Discussion Guide

1. Why do you think true crime compels us? What draws women in particular to this genre?

2.

Consider the moral implications of Cassie's career as a true crime writer. Do you think it is fair to capitalize off other people's tragedy?

3.

MORE THAN YOU'LL EVER KNOW explores the idea of belonging. How does this concept differ for Cassie and Lore? Is it possible to belong to two places at once?

4.

MORE THAN YOU'LL EVER KNOW asks readers to consider the power dynamic around whose voice gets to tell the story. How does the novel challenge our assumptions about who is allowed to speak?

5.

Think about Lore's path leading to her double lives, and how small choices can become something bigger. Did you find yourself sympathizing with her at any point?

6.

Lore is told, "The world respects a good woman." What is Lore's interpretation of being "good"? After reading the novel, how would you define a "good woman"?

7.

We see Lore split her time between two countries and two marriages. How did her character feel consistent, or different, in each of these worlds?

8.

What were your impressions of Lore's husbands, Fabian and Andres? Do you pity, empathize with or condemn either of them?

9.

How do Cassie and Lore's lives echo each other? How do you think their relationship will continue, and what do you think the future holds for them?

10. How do you interpret the ending of the story? Were you left with any unanswered questions?

11.

What was your initial impression of the title MORE THAN YOU'LL EVER KNOW? Does the title mean something different after you've read the novel?

12.

Do you feel there are several sides to yourself? Are there facets of your personality you would better like to explore or hide?

Author Bio

Katie Gutierrez has an MFA from Texas State University, and her writing has appeared in *Harper's Bazaar*, *The Washington Post*, *Longreads*, *Texas Monthly* and more. She was born and raised in Laredo, Texas, and now lives in San Antonio, with her husband and their two children. MORE THAN YOU'LL EVER KNOW is her first novel.

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