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Never Have I Ever

by Joshilyn Jackson



About the Book

New York Times **bestselling author Joshilyn Jackson --- "an admired writer who deserves to be a household name" (*Kirkus Reviews*) --- displays her masterful talent in this dark and deliciously addictive tale of domestic suspense.**

In this game, even winning can be deadly...

Amy Whey is proud of her ordinary life and the simple pleasures that come with it --- teaching diving lessons, baking cookies for new neighbors, helping her best friend, Charlotte, run their local book club. Her greatest joy is her family: her devoted professor husband, her spirited 15-year-old stepdaughter, her adorable infant son. And, of course, the steadfast and supportive Charlotte. But Amy?s sweet, uncomplicated life begins to unravel when the mysterious and alluring Angelica Roux arrives on her doorstep one book club night.

Sultry and magnetic, Roux beguiles the group with her feral charm. She keeps the wine flowing and lures them into a game of spilling secrets. Everyone thinks it?s naughty, harmless fun. Only Amy knows better. Something wicked has come her way --- a she-devil in a pricey red sports car who seems to know the terrible truth about who she is and what she once did.

When they?re alone, Roux tells her that if she doesn?t give her what she asks for, what she deserves, she?s going to make Amy pay for her sins. One way or another.

To protect herself and her family, and save the life she?s built, Amy must beat the devil at her own clever game, matching wits with Roux in an escalating war of hidden pasts and unearthed secrets. Amy knows the consequences if she can?t beat Roux. What terrifies her is everything she could lose if she wins.

A diabolically entertaining tale of betrayal, deception, temptation and love --- filled with dark twists leavened by

Joshilyn Jackson?s trademark humor --- NEVER HAVE I EVER explores what happens when the transgressions of our past come back with a vengeance.

Discussion Guide

1. NEVER HAVE I EVER is told through Amy?s eyes, but she doesn?t always tell the reader all the facts. Would you consider Amy an unreliable narrator? How do you think the story might have differed from another perspective, particularly Roux?s?

2. Amy describes diving as a solace because it reminds her how large the world is. Why is this idea a comfort to Amy? Do you have anything that offers you peace in the same way?

3. No one is all bad or all good. Should a person be defined by their worst actions or their best? Can anything eventually be forgiven?

4. Roux is an elusive character who Amy has many theories about as the story progresses. Who did you think Roux was? How did your theories change as you read?

5. Amy has a tendency to mother everyone around her: her child and step-child, her friend Char, Luca, and even her husband to some extent. Jackson has been quoted as saying that the most dangerous animal is ?a mother anything.? How does Amy?s motherhood influence her moral choices and the risks she is willing to take?

6. Tig says, ?You know what?s weird? It?s easier to forgive you than myself.? Why do you think this is? Do you think we tend to blame ourselves more or less than we deserve?

7. Do you think it is possible to fully escape the past, or do our histories define us? Do you think it?s ever possible to start over?

8. How did your impression of Amy and Charlotte?s friendship change over the course of the book? Do you think Amy?s methods of protecting Charlotte are right?

9. What are the differences in Amy?s relationship with Davis versus Tig? Who do you think is her better match? Do you think, if the accident hadn?t occurred, Amy?s relationship with Tig might have gone differently?

10. What do you make of Roux?s relationship with Luca? How do their lies throughout NEVER HAVE I EVER inform what you know about them now? Do you think the action Amy took was justifiable?

11. NEVER HAVE I EVER explores the idea of choosing the kind of person we want to be in life. Do you think Amy is a good person? How about Roux?

12. Following that, in what ways are Amy and Roux similar? Different? What do they begrudgingly respect about one another?

Author Bio

Joshilyn Jackson is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of numerous novels, including GODS IN ALABAMA and NEVER HAVE I EVER. Her books have been translated into more than a dozen languages. A former actor, Jackson is also an award-winning audiobook narrator. A recent expat from the American South, she and her family have settled in upstate New York.

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