

The Truth About Delilah Blue

by Tish Cohen



About the Book

Just as Delilah's father falls further and further into Alzheimer's, she discovers that he's been harboring a horrible secret for over 15 years, but he no longer remembers the motivations behind his deception or the consequences. Reminiscent of the books of Jodi Picoult (*House Rules*, *Keeping the Faith*) and Jennifer Weiner (*In Her Shoes*, *Best Friends Forever*) --- as well as Lisa Genova's breakout novel about Alzheimer's, *Still Alice* --- *The Truth About Delilah Blue* by acclaimed author Tish Cohen (*Town House*, *Inside Out Girl*) delivers a touching, poignant novel about one young woman's attempt to come to terms with loss, betrayal, and forgiveness.

Discussion Guide

1. How necessary was it for Victor Mack to keep Lila isolated from friends? Did he overreact in that regard? How do you think Lila's isolation helped or hindered their relationship?
2. Is it possible for a child to play a role in such a crime as parental abduction? Is it possible for both sides to be at fault for such a crime or is the abductor the only guilty one?
3. Do you like Victor Mack as a person?
4. Why do you think Kira so obsessed with missing children? Is this Elisabeth's fault? How much influence do you think an absent sibling has on the one left behind?
5. In Lila's childhood, which parent do you think should have been given custody, if either? What other ways do you think Lila could have been protected?
6. How does the cabin in which Victor chose to raise his daughter relate to the story? Do you see a parallel to the

characters? lives?

7. Does Victor's reluctance to offer physical affection to his daughter help or hurt her ability to model nude? How can physical cues and experiences children have affect the way they handle physical experiences as adults?

8. Should Lila have forgiven her father? Should she have been more empathic toward her mother? How do you think you would have handled the situation if you were Lila?

9. What role did the coyote play in the story? How does his story parallel the Mack's story?

10. Is Lila too harsh with her mother, given all Elisabeth has lived through?

11. How does Lichty's criticism differ from Elisabeth's? Is one type more damaging to Lila than the other? Has there been a time in your life when criticism kept you from pursuing a dream?

Author Bio

Tish Cohen is the author of *TOWN HOUSE*, a 2008 finalist for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize Best First Book Award (Canada and Caribbean region), and in development as a feature film with Fox 2000. The film is being produced by Ridley Scott's Scott Free and will be directed by John Carney, the award-winning, critically acclaimed director of *Once*. Production is set to begin in New England in 2008. *Town House* was released to massive media interest in Canada, has been published in Italy, and will be released in Germany in April 2009.

Cohen has also written the preteen novel *THE INVISIBLE RULES OF ZOE LAMA*, a bestseller in Canada, which was published in 2007. The sequel, *THE ONE AND ONLY ZOE LAMA*, will be published in summer 2008. The *Zoe Lama* series is in development as a live action TV series with 9Story Entertainment.

Cohen has contributed articles to some of Canada's largest newspapers, including *The Globe and Mail* and *The National Post*. Having grown up in Los Angeles and Orange County in California, and Montreal, Cohen now calls Toronto home. *INSIDE OUT GIRL* is Cohen's second novel for adults.

Critical Praise

"What is more wrenching for a girl than being separated from her mother? In this engrossing novel, *The Truth About Delilah Blue*, estranged parents navigate narrow lines of legitimacy in the aftermath of an awful twelve-year family separation. It is impossible to turn away from these damaged yet engaging characters as they struggle to either erase or face the past. Cohen, who writes with clarity, wit, and warmth, is brilliant in her penetration of the family layers, presenting all sides of the drama by allowing each character to be the star of their own show. This is a book that won't be set aside until the last page is turned."

The Truth About Delilah Blue

by Tish Cohen

Publication Date: June 8, 2010

Paperback: 412 pages

Publisher: Harper Perennial

ISBN-10: 006187597X

ISBN-13: 9780061875977