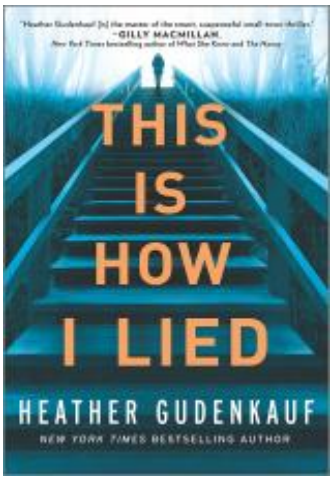
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This Is How I Lied

by Heather Gudenkauf



About the Book

Everyone has a secret they?ll do anything to hide?

Twenty-five years ago, the body of 16-year-old Eve Knox was found in the caves near her home in small-town Grotto, Iowa --- discovered by her best friend, Maggie, and her sister, Nola. There were a handful of suspects, including her boyfriend, Nick, but without sufficient evidence the case ultimately went cold.

For decades Maggie was haunted by Eve?s death and that horrible night. Now a detective in Grotto, and seven months pregnant, she is thrust back into the past when a new piece of evidence surfaces and the case is reopened. As Maggie investigates and reexamines the clues, secrets about what really happened begin to emerge. But someone in town knows more than they?re letting on, and they?ll stop at nothing to keep the truth buried deep.

Discussion Guide

1. Like many sisters, Eve and Nola have a complex relationship, and Eve often plays the caretaker role, looking out for Nola. How do you think Nola?s life would have been different had Eve lived?

2. At the beginning of the novel, Maggie volunteers to take on Eve?s case now that new evidence has been discovered. Why do you think she chose to do this? As the book progressed and you learned more about her, what do you think her motives were?

3. Which character in the novel did you most closely identify with? Why?

4. Nola clearly never felt like she belonged in Grotto. Why do you think she chose to return to her childhood home?

5. Discuss the secrets that the characters kept from each other. How would their lives have been different if the characters had been honest with one another? Is it ever okay to keep a secret?

6. The caves are a central location in the novel. How would the story be different if the crime took place in another location?

7. Do you think Nola loved Eve? Why or why not?

8. What scene in the novel resonated most with you? Why?

9. What is the significance of the title? How does it relate to each of the main characters?

10. Where do you envision the characters soon after the story ends? What will their lives be like five years from now?

Author Bio

Heather Gudenkauf is the Edgar Award-nominated, *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of 11 novels, including THE OVERNIGHT GUEST, EVERYONE IS WATCHING and THE PERFECT HOSTS. Her debut novel, THE WEIGHT OF SILENCE, was an instant *NYT* bestseller and remained on the list for 22 weeks. Gudenkauf?s critically acclaimed novels have been published in over 25 countries and have sold over 2.5 million copies worldwide. Her books have been featured on many "Best Of" roundups, including lists by the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, NPR, Amazon, Apple Books, Goodreads and more.

Heather was born in Wagner, South Dakota, the youngest of six children. At one month of age, her family returned to the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota where her father was employed as a guidance counselor and her mother as a school nurse. At the age of three, her family moved to Iowa, where she grew up. Having been born with a profound unilateral hearing loss (there were many evenings when Heather and her father made a trip to the bus barn to look around the school bus for her hearing aids that she often conveniently would forget on the seat beside her). Heather tended to use books as a retreat, would climb into the toy box that her father?s students from Rosebud made for the family with a pillow, blanket and flashlight, close the lid, and escape the world around her. Heather became a voracious reader and the seed of becoming a writer was planted.

Heather lives in Iowa with her family and a very spoiled German Shorthaired Pointer named Lolo. In her free time, Heather enjoys spending time with her family, reading, swimming and hiking. She is currently working on her next novel.

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