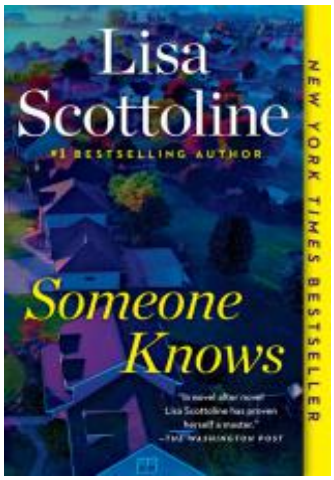
Someone Knows

by Lisa Scottoline



About the Book

Bestselling and award-winning author Lisa Scottoline reaches new heights with this riveting novel about how a single decision can undo a family, how our past can derail our present, and how not guilty doesn't always mean innocent.

Allie Garvey is heading home to the funeral of a childhood friend. Allie is not only grief-stricken, she's full of dread. Because going home means seeing the other two people with whom she shares an unbearable secret.

Twenty years prior, a horrific incident shattered the lives of five teenagers, including Allie. Drinking and partying in the woods, they played a dangerous prank that went tragically wrong, turning deadly. The teenagers kept what happened a secret, believing that getting caught would be the worst thing that could happen. But time has taught Allie otherwise. Not getting caught was far worse.

Allie has been haunted for two decades by what she and the others did, and by the fact that she never told a soul. The dark secret has eaten away at her, distancing her from everyone she loves, including her husband. Because she wasn't punished by the law, Allie has punished herself, and it's a life sentence.

Now, Allie stands on the precipice of losing everything. She's ready for a reckoning, determined to learn how the prank went so horribly wrong. She digs to unearth the truth, but she reaches a shocking conclusion that she never saw coming --- and neither will the reader.

A deeply emotional examination of family, marriage and the true nature of justice, SOMEONE KNOWS is Lisa Scottoline's most powerful novel to date. Startling, page-turning, and with an ending that's impossible to forget, this is a tour de force by a beloved author at the top of her game.

Discussion Guide

1. SOMEONE KNOWS begins in the present, but then moves into the past as Allie remembers her teenage years. Discuss the way that the present is informed by the past throughout the novel. How does the structure of the novel reflect the influence of the past?

2. Discuss the ways that the members of the Garvey family cope with Jill?s death. Why do you think that they express their grief so differently? Some characters in the book think that Mark?s way of grieving may have cost him his wife. Do you agree? Do you feel sympathy towards him?

3. Scottoline captures the ups and downs of adolescence perfectly in her characters. Some research shows that teenage brains work very differently from those of adults. Where do you see this in the novel? How do the voices of the teenager narrators differ from those chapters narrated by adults? Do you see Allie?s voice change over the course of SOMEONE KNOWS?

4. Why are each of the teenagers motivated to go along with the game of Russian roulette, and what do those motives reveal about them?

5. How are the four main characters each affected by guilt over Kyle?s death? What are mental and physical manifestations of guilt that follow them into adulthood?

6. The relationships between parents and children are at the heart of many of the events in SOMEONE KNOWS. Discuss the different parent/child relationships we see --- Allie and Mark, Kyle and Barb, David and Bill, and Julian and Scott --- and the ways that these relationships affect the teens as they become adults. Similarly, how do you think Sasha?s was affected by her parents? neglect?

7. What do you think Larry?s role is as a narrator in the novel? What was it like to hear from a character who was not connected to Kyle?s death? What would you have done if your spouse or family member had kept a major secret from you, like Allie did from Larry?

8. Discuss the role of memory in SOMEONE KNOWS. How does it work for or against the characters? Is it reliable? How do the characters? memories of the same events differ?

9. Do you believe that Allie was right to tell Barb about the true events surrounding Kyle?s death? What would you have done had you been in her place? And how would you have felt if you were Barb?

10. What role does justice play in the novel? Is justice truly achieved after Allie confesses to Barb? Consider the ?City of Refuge? Barton describes. Do you believe that people can heal by admitting and sharing their guilt with others?

11. Are any of the characters in SOMEONE KNOWS truly ?innocent?? What are the different factors and actions that lead to Kyle?s death? And does hiding the truth of that death make certain characters ?guilty,? even if they did not fire the gun?

12. What do you imagine will happen to Larry, Allie and their child after the novel?s end? Do you think that Allie will

be a ?good? parent? What are the different representations of good parenting in SOMEONE KNOWS?

13. Take a look at the prologue to the novel. Do you know who is speaking? What do you think about the point made by the speaker, namely that readers don?t always apply fiction or novels to their life, or that fiction is considered less serious than nonfiction? When you read a novel in your book club, does it give you any new insight about your life? Does it confirm or negate things you thought before? What is the purpose of fiction, in your view? Scottoline herself thinks that novels build empathy, nurture the self, and connect us by the truths they contain. Do you agree or disagree?

Author Bio

Lisa Scottoline is the #1 bestselling and Edgar Award-winning author of 38 novels. She is the President of Mystery Writers of America and has been named a Thriller Master by International Thriller Writers. A former trial lawyer, she graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and its law school, where she taught Justice & Fiction, a course she developed. Lisa also co-wrote a series of humorous memoirs with her daughter, novelist Francesca Serritella. There are 30 million copies of Lisa?s books in print, and she is published in 35 countries. She lives on a Pennsylvania farm with an array of disobedient pets, and she wouldn?t have it any other way.

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