

Someone We Know

by Shari Lapena



About the Book

The new domestic suspense novel from the *New York Times* bestselling author of **THE COUPLE NEXT DOOR**, **A STRANGER IN THE HOUSE** and **AN UNWANTED GUEST**, Shari Lapena

Maybe you don't know your neighbors as well as you thought you did...

"This is a very difficult letter to write. I hope you will not hate us too much.... My son broke into your home recently while you were out."

In a quiet, leafy suburb in upstate New York, a teenager has been sneaking into houses --- and into the owners' computers as well --- learning their secrets, and maybe sharing some of them, too.

Who is he, and what might he have uncovered? After two anonymous letters are received, whispers start to circulate, and suspicion mounts. And when a woman down the street is found murdered, the tension reaches the breaking point. Who killed her? Who knows more than they're telling? And how far will all these very nice people go to protect their own secrets?

In this neighborhood, it's not just the husbands and wives who play games. Here, everyone in the family has something to hide.

You never really know what people are capable of.

Discussion Guide

1. Olivia is mortified by her son, Raleigh, breaking into neighbors' houses. Do you think the apology letters were a bad

or good idea? To what degree should parents feel accountable, or be held accountable, for the actions of their children? Discuss.

2. Both Glenda and Olivia want to protect their sons from the consequences of their actions. Do you see a theme here? Should parents step in or step back? Why?

3. Do you think the relationship between Olivia and Glenda is one of true friendship or something more layered? Can you be a true friend to someone who is hiding a big secret?

4. Suspicion and betrayal are a constant thread in *SOMEONE WE KNOW*. Is anyone in the book true to anyone else?

5. Olivia, Glenda, Raleigh, Becky, Carmine, Paul, Keith and Larry are just some of the characters in the novel. Which character did you connect with the most? Whom did you sympathize with?

6. Psychological thrillers like to toy with characters' and readers' perceptions. Where did your sympathies lie as the story unfolded? How did they shift as the story progressed?

7. Thrillers love to ask the question *How well do we ever really know anybody?* Do you think people in real life harbor as many secrets as they do in fiction? How far do you think fiction strays from real life? Do you think truth is actually stranger than fiction? Discuss.

Author Bio

Shari Lapena is the internationally bestselling author of *THE COUPLE NEXT DOOR*, *A STRANGER IN THE HOUSE*, *AN UNWANTED GUEST* and *SOMEONE WE KNOW*. She was a lawyer and an English teacher before turning her hand to fiction. She lives in Toronto.

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