



No Trace

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Reading Level: Grade 3

Interest Level: Adult

Book Summary

Ryan Green disappears one day after school without a trace. His family is caught in a living nightmare. Six months later, the police have no leads. Desperate for answers, the parents contact private investigator Anna Sweet. The trail has gone cold, but Anna doesn't give up without turning over every clue.

When a body is found in the woods, Anna and the police fear the worst. Who would want to harm Ryan Green, and who will be next?

Anna's skills are about to be tested to their limits...

Chapter One

1. Describe Anna Sweet's relationship with Detective Johnny Shaw.
2. When Anna first meets Vanda and Chuck Green, what does she observe about them?
3. What does the term mixed feelings mean? Why does Anna have *mixed feelings* about her brother-in-law, Jimmy Wilson?
4. List the facts of Ryan Green's disappearance so far.

Chapter Two

1. What new information does Anna learn about Ryan Green?
2. If you were Anna Sweet, what would you do next to solve the case?
3. Anna seems to be heading toward a difficult personal decision to make about Jimmy Wilson. What do you think she should do?

Chapter Three

1. How can Anna tell that her dad is dealing with some personal issues?
2. What do you do when you are worried about a problem that is difficult to solve?
3. Describe Anna and her father's relationship. What is your opinion of their relationship?
4. Anna says that the November weather is cold, grey and depressing. How does weather affect your mood?

Chapter Four

1. Why does Anna think Ben Draper and Travis Green are acting suspiciously?
2. Do you think Ben and Travis are acting suspiciously?
3. How can you tell when somebody is keeping a secret?
4. What new information does Anna learn from her interviews, if any?

Chapter Five

1. What does Anna mean when she says that eating pizza at the Bella Vista would feel as if she were "two-timing" on Gino?
2. What is a hunch?

3. Describe a time when you had a hunch that turned out to be correct.
4. Describe the Montana family business. How have they dealt with Ryan's disappearance?

Chapter Six

1. Describe the weather. How does the weather create a mood for the story?
2. A twist is a surprising turn in a story. What was the twist in this chapter? Were you expecting the twist that occurred partway through Chapter Six?
3. "When a woman has a history with me, Sweet, neither one of us ever forgets it." What is Jimmy really trying to tell Anna?

Chapter Seven

1. What two things does Anna find out that help her decide whether she should date Jimmy again?
2. If you were in Anna's place, would you give Jimmy another chance?
3. We often have to make tough decisions in life. Describe a time when you had to make a difficult choice.

Chapter Eight

1. Would you like Vanda Green as a mother? Why or why not?
2. Why does Anna ask her father to do some research for her?
3. Anna often uses creative words and images to describe situations. Find two examples of this in the book.

Chapter Nine

1. How does Anna figure out who the mystery girlfriend is?
2. Do you think Maggie is lying? If so, why do you think she is lying?
3. Based on all the information that Anna has uncovered, do you have any idea about what happened to Ryan Green?

Chapter Ten

1. What are the two twists in this chapter?
2. What information does Anna's dad uncover about the Greens? Does this information change your opinion of Vanda? How?
3. What do you learn about the body found in the woods near Carp?

4. Why is Anna refusing to talk to Nick? Would you react the same way if you were in her position?

Chapter Eleven

1. How does the author build tension in this chapter?
2. Anna says that Bobby's "stranglehold on the family is broken." What does she mean?
3. Do you think there is enough evidence against Maggie Montana for the police to charge her?

Chapter Twelve

1. Chuck Green kept information from Vanda. Do you agree with his decision to do that?
2. What does the expression *in the doghouse* mean?
3. Do you think that Anna is making the right decision about Jimmy?
4. What does the word *bittersweet* mean? Explain why Anna and Jimmy's situation is bittersweet.
5. Describe a bittersweet decision that you have made.

Chapter Thirteen

1. Anna finds out the truth about Nick in this chapter. Was Anna justified to doubt Nick, or should she have trusted him all along?
2. Anna says that she should not have believed what she read in the newspapers. Should people believe all the news they read in the newspapers, hear on the radio, or see on T.V.? What might cause some news stories to be inaccurate?
3. Suggest ways to figure out whether the reported facts of a news story are true or not.