



To Keep A Secret

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Reading Level: Grade 3

Interest Level: Adult

Book Summary

Jada Price has gone missing. Anna and new hire Nick Roma team up to find her. The trail leads them to a teenage girl's murder and a secret internet dating site. Anna is about to discover how far people will go to keep a secret, ...and who they will betray.

She must work quickly to uncover the answers before a second victim dies. Will this case prove too difficult for Anna Sweet? Or will she put the clues together in time to outsmart a killer who has everything to lose?

Chapter One

1. Anna Sweet doesn't trust Nick Roma because he reminds her of her brother-in-law Jimmy Wilson and "every man she ever dated who believed women owed them for looking good." What does Anna mean?
2. Does Anna have any valid reasons for not trusting Nick Roma?
3. Anna works with Jada Price but doesn't know anything about her private life. Do you think it is a good idea for people to keep their work lives completely separate from their personal lives?

Chapter Two

4. What do you learn about Jada from Anna's search of her apartment?
5. If a private investigator did a quick search of your home, what would they learn about you?

Chapter Three

6. Describe Henry Price and Mandy Blair's scheme.
7. Anna thinks they were playing with fire. What does playing with fire mean? Do you think Anna is right?
8. Have you ever been involved in a plan that you had a bad feeling about?

Chapter Four

9. Why does Anna get angry with Nick?
10. How difficult do you think the investigation will become if Sergeant Vine is the killer?

Chapter Five

11. Shaw brings in Jimmy Wilson to help Anna investigate Sergeant Vine. Do you think they should investigate Vine in secret or confront him right away?
12. Have you ever kept a secret that you later regretted keeping?
13. What new information do you learn about Mandy and her family?

Chapter Six

14. What point is Anna trying to make when she notes that Derek Lee is wearing a wedding ring?
15. If you were a couples' counsellor, what advice would you give Derek Lee about his marriage?

Chapter Seven

16. How do you know that there is trouble in Cheri and Jimmy's marriage?
17. Anna's father tells Anna that history has a way of repeating itself. What is he really telling her?

Chapter Eight

18. What does play your cards close to your chest mean?
19. Today, people reveal a lot about their lives on social media. Do you think people should share their thoughts and feelings on social media?
20. Many people spend a lot of their time using technology such as iPhones, iPads, and computers. Why do you think they do that? Do you think that people spend too much of their time using technology?

Chapter Nine

21. Based on the evidence given in the first half of the book, who do you believe killed Mandy?
22. What are the pressures that Anna is dealing with?
23. Anna and her dad often do not say what they are really thinking. How would you describe their relationship? Good? Broken? A little of both?

Chapter Ten

24. Bus driver Frank Campbell has a very different reaction to the news of Mandy's death from school teacher Derek Lee. Does one appear more innocent than the other? Explain why or why not.
25. What advice would you give Frank Campbell about his marriage?

Chapter Eleven

26. What do you know about Nick Roma's character so far?
27. Do you think Anna is still right to be suspicious of Nick?
28. Some people believe you can judge people's characters within the first few minutes of meeting them. Do you agree?

Chapter Twelve

29. How does the author create tension and suspense in the Blair house?
30. After Anna meets Reverend Ben Thompson and his wife, Iris, again, does your opinion of either of them change?

Chapter Thirteen

31. Are you shocked by what Anna and Nick see on the video?
32. Anna and Nick do not discuss the video after they see it. Do you think this makes the scene more or less powerful?
33. Do you think Mandy Blair was heroic? Why or why not?

Chapter Fourteen

34. What is sarcasm? How does Sergeant Shaw use it in the interview?
35. Mystery authors often use a twist or two in the plot. What is a twist in a plot?
36. Were you surprised by any of the twists in the plot in this story?

Chapter Fifteen

37. Do you think Cheri should take the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity?
38. A balance between work and life can be difficult to achieve. Have you ever had to try to keep a balance between different parts of your life?
39. How can employers help workers to have a good balance between work and life?

Chapter Sixteen

40. Find a map of Ottawa's Byward Market online and trace the route of the chase.
41. Why do you think Sergeant Vine is following Henry?
42. Think of movies and television shows that have chase scenes. What do chase scenes add to movies and television shows?

Chapter Seventeen

43. Describe Anna Sweet's character.
44. Is she somebody you would like for a friend?
45. Did the plot twists in Chapters 16 and 17 surprise you?

Chapter Eighteen

46. Anna says that she is filled with bittersweet happiness. What does bittersweet mean?
47. Do you have an example of a bittersweet moment in your life?
48. What does it mean to say that someone has a giant ego or is egotistical?
49. What do you think of Nick Roma by the end of the book?