



The Life I Left Behind

Colette McBeth

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READING GROUP GUIDE

About the book:

In the next chilling standalone thriller from Colette McBeth, a woman who barely escaped a murderer years ago discovers that another woman has just been killed in the same way.

Discussion Questions

1. Eve narrates her story from beyond the grave. What impact do you think this has?
2. The Life I Left Behind has an unusual and complicated structure of voices, with which you piece together what has really happened. How do you think Colette McBeth manages to sustain the narrative drive, while keeping the suspense going?
3. Melody manages to control her new life with order. Do you think this is a normal reaction to living through a traumatic event?
4. One of the keys to clever suspense writing is keeping the reader hooked, while making the characters very credible. Which characters did you find you really believed in?
5. Science is used as much as psychology in solving a crime or outlining a criminal profile. How do you think the blend of science and nature works in this novel?
6. Melody gets to know Eve through the work she has left behind. How does this 'friendship' help Melody reawaken her old self?

7. Each of the women in this novel feels guilty about something, which influences ensuing actions in their lives. Do you think that a sense of guilt is a particularly female trait?
8. The Life I Left Behind has a very real sense of place and period. Do you feel location is important in contemporary novels of this sort?
9. Which is more important to you as a reader: hook, plot, character or twist?
10. If you left something behind to denote your character, what would it be?

Author Bio



COLETTE MCBETH was a BBC TV Crime Reporter for ten years. She lives in West London with her husband and three young children. She attended the Faber Academy Novel Writing Course in 2011. This is her second novel.

Want to learn more about Colette McBeth?
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