

NEVER SAW YOU COMING

ERIN HAHN

Discussion Questions

1. At the start of the story, Meg mentions realizing for the first time how exhausting it was to pretend sincerity. Have you ever felt that in your own life? What was the situation you felt you had to fake?
2. Meg decides to leave Ann Arbor almost immediately after finding out the truth about her parents, changing all of her gap year plans. Do you think this was irresponsible, impulsive, appropriate, or understandable? How might you react in her place? Has there ever been a time when you felt like your gut was telling you to act on impulse? Explain.
3. Meg's mom lied to her but felt justified in doing so. Are there ever situations where it's okay to lie to your loved ones? If so, what?
4. Micah says he might hate the Church, but not God, for the way he and his family were treated after his dad's arrest and conviction. What does that mean to you?
5. Meg encounters a lot of firsts upon arriving in Marquette. Which one do you think was the most meaningful to her and why? What's a first of hers that you connected to personally?
6. Micah has discovered a lot of outlets for his frustration and hurt over the years, including dangerous stunts, running at night, and drumming. Do you think these are healthy ways of coping? What are some ways you like to cope?
7. Duke ultimately decides to leave his parents behind and move nine hours away to Ann Arbor. Do you agree with his choice? Do you think he should have stayed and tried to work things out with his parents, most notably his dad? At what point do you think it's better to let go and strike out on your own?



8. Meg's stepdad, Declan, admits to hiding his homosexuality from her, and others, for decades, due to his strict conservative upbringing. Meg told Micah that she fears Declan hid it from her because he was afraid of her censure. Are there beliefs you had growing up that you are ashamed of now? How have you reconciled that as a young adult or adult?
9. Meg is shamed by James's accusations about her allowing Micah into her bedroom late at night, and caves into herself, rather than fighting back. In fact, she feels like she has to defend her uncle's censure to Vada. How did this make you feel? Have you ever been held accountable for an action from your church or church-adjacent authority? How did your secular friends react? Did their reaction change your perspective, yes or no?
10. Micah has a complicated relationship with his father. He refuses to forgive him for his actions or see him, but still wants his father to desire those things from him. Do you think Micah wants to be able to forgive him? Given the trajectory of their relationship, do you think he ever should? Discuss.
11. While discussing Christian culture, Vada tells Micah, "I don't understand this compulsion to hide your humanity at the risk of appearing human." What do you think this means? Do you think Meg fits this description? What about at the end of the story?
12. Both Meg's mom and Meg have been hurt by purity culture. Why do you think Meg's mom, after everything she experienced, continued to perpetuate the cycle with her daughter? Do you think things will be different between them after the story ends?

