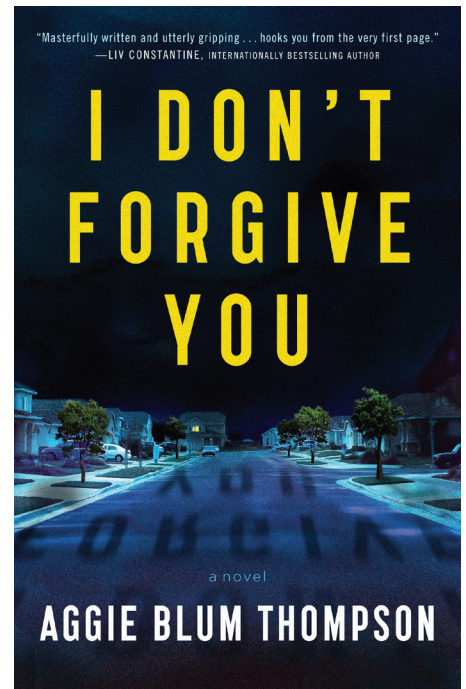


# READING GROUP GUIDE

## QUESTIONS AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

- From high school through her evolution to suburban mom, how does Allie's outsider status increase tension between her and the community throughout her life? When have you felt like an outsider? How did it affect you?
- In the book, social media is described as "a curated version of reality." Allie's life is upended by fake social media accounts made in her name. What does this say about the impact of social media in our everyday lives? What is the meaning of privacy in our current age?
- Raising a small child while caring for her aging mother - Allie is decidedly stuck sandwiched between generations. How has this impacted the choices she's made? Have you found yourself in a similar situation?
- Allie does everything she can to conceal the secret affair she had in high school, even keeping it from her husband. How did these attempts at obfuscation affect her relationships? Have you ever had to keep a secret from someone you love?
- Why does Allie have trouble accepting her affair with Paul as a victimization? How does that affect her reaction to her assault by Rob Avery years later?
- Why is it so hard for everyone in the book, including her husband, to believe Allie is a victim? What do you think was the turning point for Mark?
- Eastbrook is a tight-knit neighborhood shaken apart by the events surrounding Rob Avery's murder. If you lived there, would you be supportive of Allie? Would there be a point at which you couldn't support her?
- Allie says she spent more time researching her son's scooter than she did checking on Susan. What made Allie trust Susan implicitly?
- Margaret Cooper upends her life to seek revenge. Why do you think she makes that choice? Can you relate to that vengeful feeling?
- The book ends with the thought "Forgiveness is the backbone of love. And love makes life bearable." Why do you think forgiveness is important? What role has forgiveness played in your life?



Before turning to fiction, **AGGIE BLUM THOMPSON** covered real-life crime as a newspaper reporter for a number of papers including *The Boston Globe* and *The Washington Post*. Aggie is a member of Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, and International Thriller Writers, and serves as the program director for the Montgomery County chapter of the Maryland Writers Association. For the past nine years, she's lived with her husband and two daughters in the suburbs of Washington DC, which has afforded her a front-row view of suburban intrigues and helicopter-mom Olympics. *I Don't Forgive You* is her debut novel.

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