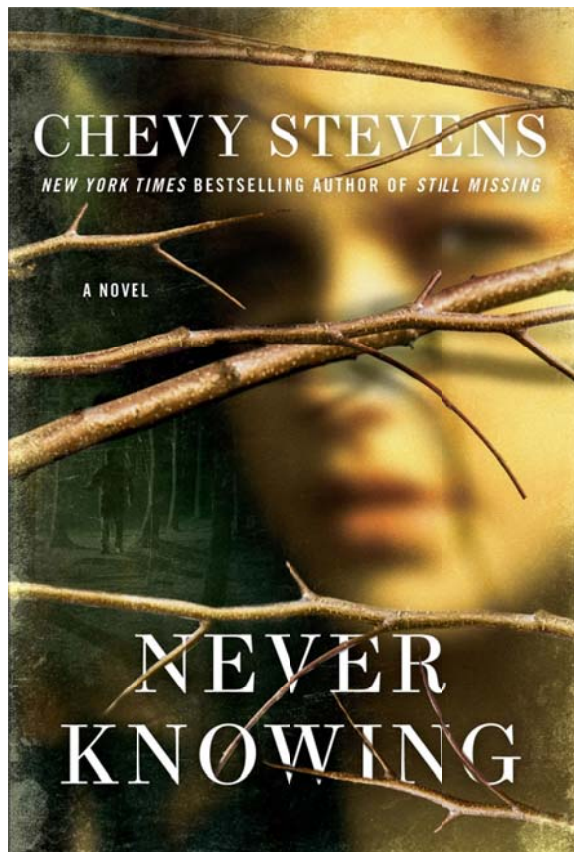


NEVER KNOWING

Chevy Stevens

ISBN: 978-1-250-00931-9 * Trade Paperback * St. Martin's Griffin * May 2012



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

About the book: From the acclaimed author of *Still Missing* comes a psychological thriller about one woman's search into her past and the deadly truth she uncovers. All her life, Sara Gallagher has wondered about her birth parents. As an adopted child with two sisters who were born naturally to her parents, Sara's home life was not ideal. The question of why she was given up for adoption has always haunted her. Finally, she is ready to take steps and find closure. But some questions are better left unanswered. After months of research, Sara locates her birth mother—only to be met with horror and rejection. Then she discovers the devastating truth: her mother was the only victim ever to escape a killer who has been hunting women every summer for decades. But Sara soon realizes the only thing worse than finding out about her father is him finding out about her. What if

murder is in your blood? *Never Knowing* is a complex and compelling portrayal of one woman's quest to understand herself, her origins, and her family. That is, if she can survive...

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *NEVER KNOWING* is a novel about discovering who you are, where you come from, and what influences have shaped you. Sara worries that she inherited her anger management problems from her biological father and that her daughter may be affected as well. This fear implicitly raises the old question of nature vs. nurture. Which do you think exercises the greater influence over an individual's behavior? Or is it a combination of both? Or something else entirely?



2. This novel deals with the issue of adoption rights, specifically the right of the birth parent to anonymity versus the right --- and occasionally the need --- of the adopted child to the knowledge of who they have come from and how. Do you have any thoughts on how those frequently competing interests can be balanced?
3. If you were Sara Gallagher, would you want to find out who your birth parents were? Do you think this question would change for her, if she'd had a happier upbringing?
4. When confronted with her birth mother's reaction, Sara does not give up. Would you have given up? How would you feel in her shoes?
5. Do you believe in pure evil? Do you believe Sara's father was pure evil or was there any sense of humanity in him? Why or why not?
6. Describe the dynamics of the three sisters. Did anything feel familiar to you? Do you believe one sister was more damaging than the other? Why or why not?
7. Even though the police use Sara as bait to lure her father, do you think there was something else at play, with regards to the dynamics between Sara and John?
8. Do you believe police always act in the best interest of justice? In this case, when did you suspect that something might be amiss?
9. Do you agree or disagree with Shakespeare's famous statement: "What is past, is prologue"?
10. Under what circumstances could you take someone's life? Under what circumstances is it ever justified?
11. Was there any twist in this book that you did not see coming? What surprised you the most?
12. In the end, who lost the most from these events? Who gained the most? Who will be able to move on from here? Who will not?

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