



Lisa Scottoline

#1 BESTSELLING AUTHOR

BOOK CLUB KIT

Someone Knows

“In novel after novel
Lisa Scottoline has proven
herself a master.”
—THE WASHINGTON POST

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— EST. 1838 —

Discussion Questions

1. *Someone Knows* begins in the present, but then moves into the past as Allie remembers her teenage years. Discuss the way that the present is informed by the past throughout the novel. How does the structure of the novel reflect the influence of the past?
2. Discuss the ways that the members of the Garvey family cope with Jill's death. Why do you think they express their grief so differently? Some characters in the book think that Mark's way of grieving may have cost him his wife—do you agree? Do you feel sympathy toward him?
3. Scottoline captures the ups and downs of adolescence perfectly in her characters. Some research shows that teenage brains work very differently from those of adults. Where do you see this in the novel? How do the voices of the teenage narrators differ from those chapters narrated by adults? Do you see Allie's voice change over the course of *Someone Knows*?
4. Why are each of the teenagers motivated to go along with the game of Russian roulette, and what do those motives reveal about them?
5. How are the four main characters affected by guilt over Kyle's death? What are the mental and physical manifestations of guilt that follow them into adulthood?
6. The relationships between parents and children are at the heart of many of the events in *Someone Knows*. Discuss the different parent/child relationships we see—Allie and Mark, Kyle and Barb, David and Bill, and Julian and Scott—and the ways that these relationships affect the teens as they become adults. Similarly, how do you think Sasha's character was affected by her parents' neglect?
7. What do you think Larry's role is as a narrator in the novel? What was it like to hear from a character who was not connected to Kyle's death? What would you have done if your spouse or family member had kept a major secret from you, as Allie did from Larry?
8. Discuss the role of memory in *Someone Knows*. How does it work for or against the characters? Is it reliable? How do the characters' memories of the same events differ?
9. Do you believe that Allie was right to tell Barb about the true events surrounding Kyle's death? What would you have done had you been in her place? And how would you have felt if you were Barb?
10. What role does justice play in the novel? Is justice truly achieved after Allie confesses to Barb? Consider the "City of Refuge" Barton describes. Do you believe that people can heal by admitting and sharing their guilt with others?
11. Are any of the characters in *Someone Knows* truly "innocent"? What are the different factors and actions that lead to Kyle's death? And does hiding the truth of that death make certain characters "guilty," even if they did not fire the gun?
12. What do you imagine will happen to Larry, Allie, and their child after the novel's end? Do you think that Allie will be a "good" parent? What are the different representations of good parenting in *Someone Knows*?
13. Take a look at the prologue to the novel. Do you know who is speaking? What do you think about the point made by the speaker—namely, that readers don't always apply fiction or novels to their life, or that fiction is considered less serious than nonfiction? When you read a novel in your book club, does it give you any new insight into your life? Does it confirm or negate things you thought before? What is the purpose of fiction, in your view? Scottoline herself thinks that novels build empathy, nurture the self, and connect us by the truths they contain. Do you agree or disagree?

A Letter from Lisa

DEAR BOOK CLUB FRIENDS!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for choosing *Someone Knows* for your book club, and I hope you enjoyed it!

I'm so honored when my books are chosen for book clubs, because I try to write an entertaining story, but also make sure there are ethical, moral, and even legal questions to keep you thinking and talking. I consider my books as "entertainment for smart people," and if I may say so, that's why so many book clubs read me. In fact, I have thrown a 1200-person book club party at my home in Pennsylvania every year for the past thirteen years. (Don't worry, it's a farm, so everybody fits!) I love meeting readers, talking books, and comparing the funniest book club names, like Between the Wines, The Better-Than-Therapy Book Club, and D.A.R.T.S., which stands for, Did Anybody Read This?

If you're wondering why I invite 1200 total strangers to my house, the answer is simple. To say thank-you to book clubs who read me, and to show what books do for all of us and why they matter so much. Books connect people to each other, and they build closeness. How? When you talk about what you like or dislike in particular book, you're really talking about yourself, and that's why books build intimacy, connection, and community. True happiness can be found in community, and that's why it's a running theme throughout *Someone Knows*, which takes place in a suburban development for a reason. It's a community all its own, but it may be similar in some respects to where you may live, and it's populated by families tied together by blood, love, friendship—and occasionally, something far darker.

And we all know another thing that connects people is food—and alcohol. So when you get together, I hope you yap forever about the book, powered by my sugar-fueled lemon squares. I love these because they're light, fun, and caloric enough to give you energy, not guilt. I'm also including my favorite recipe for a rosé wine spritzer, because it's also light and fun, and with a lemon slice, it will match not only the lemon squares, but the book cover! What more can a girl ask for?

Thank you again for reading *Someone Knows*! And by the way, if you want to have your book club come to my big book party this year, just check out my website, scottoline.com, for details!

Love,



Author photo © Jeff Wojtaszek



If you'd like to attend Lisa's Book Party...

HERE'S HOW YOU ENTER

Take a picture of your book club with each member holding a copy of *Someone Knows* in hardcover, on audio, or on an e-reader.

Be sure to include a book club name, working email address and phone number with the entry.

Send the picture to
bookclubs@scottoline.com.

Entry must be emailed by June 30.

You will receive an email confirmation that your entry was received and accepted.

(Only entries that adhere to the rules will be accepted).

*Enjoy
while you
read*

LISA'S LEMONY ROSÉ SPRITZER

Pretty, light, and fun!

Ingredients

5 ounces rosé
Club soda
A lemon slice

Directions

Pour your rosé and top with club soda or sparkling water.

Add a lemon!

LISA'S LEMON SQUARES

Ingredients

Crust

1 cup unsalted butter, melted
2 cups flour
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup granulated sugar

Filling

4 eggs
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups sugar
12 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
5 tablespoons flour
Grated lemon of 4 lemons
Confectioner's sugar

Cooking Instructions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Make crust: Combine butter, flour, and sugar and mix well.

Pat dough into the bottom of a 9x13-inch baking pan.

Bake for 20 minutes.

Make filling: Beat eggs until thick. Add lemon juice and continue beating. Add flour, sugar, and lemon zest.

Pour onto crust.

Bake 30 minutes.

Cool and dust with confectioner's sugar.