

VANISHED Reader Questions

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VANISHED, MIRA Books, ISBN-10: 0778317382

1. How does Evelyn Baine's past influence her decisions? In what ways does her personal connection to the investigation help her, and in what ways does it hinder her?
2. How does survivor's guilt impact Evelyn Baine? If Evelyn had never learned that she was supposed to have been taken alongside Cassie – or if she had known it all along – do you think that would have changed her actions now? In what way? Who else in VANISHED is impacted strongly by survivor's guilt?
3. How does almost being a victim eighteen years ago affect Evelyn's profile? Can she be an effective, impartial profiler? How does her history with the case change her view of herself, and the way others viewed her?
4. Does the fact that Tomas Lamar has a daughter the same age as the victims impact how he approaches the case? Does anything change for him once he realizes that Evelyn was targeted (since she is biracial)? Who else in the story acts differently than they might have otherwise because of children?
5. How does the issue of race come into play? How do Evelyn's memories of the way the town was eighteen years ago alter the way she perceives the town now? How does the fact that it is a small town change the dynamic?
6. How do the various relationships influence the plotline? Does Evelyn's history with officer Jack Bullock alter the course of the investigation? What about Tomas's relationship with his veteran officers?
7. How does the theme of things buried show up in the story, both literally and figuratively? What other themes repeat in VANISHED?
8. How do the different suspects' possible motivations in the book make them more or less evil? What conclusions can be made about the psychology of evil? Are there any gray areas?
9. How does Evelyn Baine change through the course of the novel? At the end of the story, do you feel that she is substantially different than she was at the start?