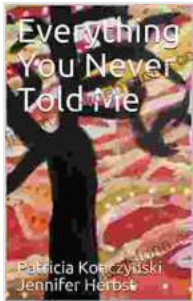


Everything You Never Told Me: A Haunting Exploration of Family Secrets and the Unseen Forces That Shape Our Lives



Everything You Never Told Me by Patricia Konczynski Jennifer Herbst

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1011 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 56 pages
Lending : Enabled



Celeste Ng's *Everything You Never Told Me* is a gripping and emotionally resonant novel that delves into the complexities of family relationships, the weight of secrets, and the unseen forces that shape our lives. With its evocative prose and unforgettable characters, this novel will stay with you long after you finish reading it.

The novel tells the story of the Lee family, a Chinese-American family living in the suburbs of Cleveland in the 1970s. The Lees are a seemingly perfect family: Dr. James Lee is a successful surgeon, his wife Marilyn is a devoted homemaker, and their two daughters, Lydia and Hannah, are bright and well-behaved. But beneath the surface, the Lees are struggling with a number of unspoken issues.

James is a workaholic who is emotionally distant from his family. Marilyn is struggling to find her place in life outside of being a wife and mother. Lydia is a talented pianist who is under a lot of pressure to succeed. And Hannah is a sensitive and imaginative child who feels like she doesn't fit in.

When Marilyn suddenly disappears one summer evening, the Lees' world is shattered. The police investigate, but they are unable to find any evidence of foul play. James is convinced that Marilyn simply walked out on them, but Lydia and Hannah believe that something more sinister happened.

As the years go by, the Lees are forced to confront the secrets that have been hidden within their family. Lydia and Hannah learn more about their mother's past, and James comes to terms with his own failures. Through it all, the Lees must find a way to heal and move on.

Everything You Never Told Me is a beautifully written and emotionally resonant novel that explores the complex and often unspoken dynamics of family life. Ng's characters are so well-developed and relatable, and her prose is both lyrical and evocative. This novel will stay with you long after you finish reading it.

Themes

Everything You Never Told Me explores a number of important themes, including:

- **Family secrets:** The Lees are a family with a number of unspoken secrets. Marilyn has a past that she has never shared with her husband or children, and James has his own secrets that he keeps

hidden. These secrets have a profound impact on the family's relationships, and they eventually lead to Marilyn's disappearance.

- **The weight of expectations:** Lydia and Hannah are both under a lot of pressure to succeed. Lydia is expected to be a perfect pianist, and Hannah is expected to be a good daughter. These expectations weigh heavily on them, and they contribute to their feelings of inadequacy and isolation.
- **The power of grief:** Marilyn's disappearance has a devastating impact on the Lees. James is consumed by guilt and anger, and Lydia and Hannah are both deeply affected by their mother's absence. The novel explores the different ways that people grieve, and it shows the long-term impact that grief can have on a family.
- **The importance of forgiveness:** In order for the Lees to heal, they must learn to forgive each other and themselves. James must forgive Marilyn for leaving them, and Lydia and Hannah must forgive James for his failures as a father. Forgiveness is a difficult process, but it is essential for the family to move on.

Characters

The characters in *Everything You Never Told Me* are complex and well-developed. Ng does an excellent job of creating characters that are both relatable and flawed.

- **Dr. James Lee:** James is a successful surgeon, but he is also a workaholic who is emotionally distant from his family. He is unable to express his emotions, and this leads to misunderstandings and resentment.

- **Marilyn Lee:** Marilyn is a devoted homemaker, but she is also struggling to find her place in life outside of being a wife and mother. She has a past that she has never shared with her husband or children, and this secret weighs heavily on her.
- **Lydia Lee:** Lydia is a talented pianist who is under a lot of pressure to succeed. She is a perfectionist, and she is constantly trying to meet her parents' expectations.
- **Hannah Lee:** Hannah is a sensitive and imaginative child who feels like she doesn't fit in. She is often misunderstood by her parents and siblings, and she feels like an outsider.

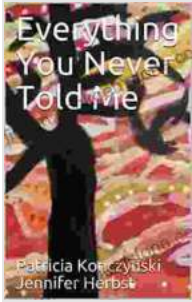
Setting

Everything You Never Told Me is set in the suburbs of Cleveland in the 1970s. The novel captures the social and cultural landscape of the time, and it explores the ways in which the expectations of society can shape our lives.

Writing Style

Celeste Ng's writing style is lyrical and evocative. She uses beautiful language to create a vivid and atmospheric setting. Her characters are complex and well-developed, and her dialogue is both natural and believable.

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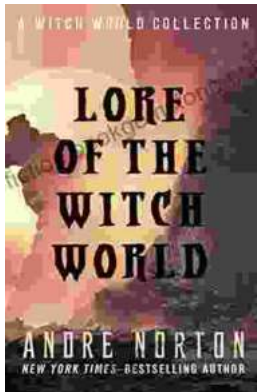
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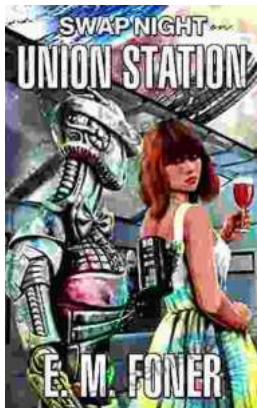
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