

DISCUSSION GUIDE

I KILLED ZOE SPANOS BY KIT FRICK

ABOUT THE BOOK: When Anna Cicconi arrives to the small Hamptons village of Herron Mills for a summer nanny gig, she has high hopes for a fresh start. What she finds instead is a community on edge after the disappearance of Zoe Spanos, a local girl who has been missing since New Year's Eve. Anna bears an eerie resemblance to Zoe, and her mere presence in town stirs up still-raw feelings about the unsolved case. As Anna delves deeper into the mystery, stepping further and further into Zoe's life, she becomes increasingly convinced that she and Zoe are connected—and that she knows what happened to her.

Two months later, Zoe's body is found in a nearby lake, and Anna is charged with manslaughter. But Anna's confession is riddled with holes, and Martina Green, teen host of the *Missing Zoe* podcast, isn't satisfied. Did Anna really kill Zoe? And if not, can Martina's podcast uncover the truth?

Inspired by Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*, Kit Frick weaves a thrilling story of psychological suspense that twists and turns until the final page.



I Killed Zoe Spanos Discussion Questions

Created by Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing

1. The book begins with Anna confessing to what happened to Zoe Spanos. Why do you think the book opens this way? Is Anna's story believable? Why or why not?
2. Anna describes Herron Mills as being like a different country from her home in Brooklyn. Why does she feel so out of place there? Have you ever been someplace that felt completely different from the world you knew?
3. At the beginning of her first podcast, Martina tells her listeners that she is not an unbiased reporter, but that Zoe's case needs an insider in order to solve the mystery behind her disappearance. How is it helpful for Martina to have a close relationship with the Spanos family? How might it be harmful to the investigation?
4. Both Anna and Martina believe Caden Talbot knows more about Zoe's disappearance than he is telling the police. What factors make them suspect him? What other characters behave suspiciously throughout the novel?
5. The longer Anna stays in Herron Mills, the more she has vivid dreams about Zoe and Windermere. How do these dreams affect her waking hours? Do you remember your own dreams, and if so, do you ever try to find meaning in them?
6. Throughout the course of the book, Anna has conflicting memories of New Year's Eve. How is she influenced by things other people tell her about Zoe and that night? Have you ever found out that your memory of a particular moment conflicts with the memory someone else has of that same moment?
7. The book alternates between the months leading up to and following Anna's confession to the police. Do these alternating points of view make it harder or easier to guess what happened to Zoe?

FOR FURTHER READING:

[Podcasts, Memory and Setting Up the Perfect Summer Thriller: Five Questions for Kit Frick, Author of *I Killed Zoe Spanos*—Our July B&N YA Book Club Pick](#)

[Kirkus: Kit Frick: 'Adolescence Is Just Below the Surface'](#)

[Crime Reads: "The Rise of the True Crime Podcast Novel"](#)

[Book Riot: "What All Those Dead Girls Say About Us"](#)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Kit Frick is a novelist, poet, and MacDowell fellow from Pittsburgh, PA. She studied creative writing at Sarah Lawrence College and received her MFA from Syracuse University. When she isn't putting complicated characters in impossible situations, Kit edits poetry and literary fiction for a small press and edits for private clients. She is the author of the young adult thrillers *I Killed Zoe Spanos*, *All Eyes on Us*, and *See All the Stars*, all from Simon & Schuster / Margaret K. McElderry Books, as well as the poetry collection *A Small Rising Up in the Lungs* from New American Press. Kit is working on her next novel.

