



My Sister's Keeper

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Reading Level: Grade 3

Interest Level: Adult

Book Summary

Anna Sweet, ex-cop turned waitress, is bar-hopping her way across the U.S.A. But a middle-of-the-night phone call to Anna's hotel room in Kermit, Texas, is about to end her life on the road. The brakes on her sister Cheri's car have failed, and she's lying banged up in an Ottawa hospital. Cheri warns that unless Anna comes right home, she will be dead by Christmas.

Anna has more than enough reason to stay away from her hometown. Yet her sister's terror is a calling card she cannot ignore. Is Cheri's life really in danger? Or is this another bid for attention? A doubting Anna Sweet is about to find out...

Chapter One

1. What questions do you have about Anna Sweet and her family after reading Chapter One?
2. Anna Sweet is working in a bar in an oil town in Texas. Have you ever worked at a job that you did not like?
3. If you could choose any job in any place in the world—where would you choose to live and what type of work would you do?

Chapter Two

1. Anna Sweet flew home to help her sister the same day that she was asked. Have you ever had to drop everything to help someone with a problem?
2. Discuss the expression "blood is thicker than water". Can you think of a time in your own life that this was true?
3. Describe Anna's relationship with her father.

Chapter Three

1. Like Cheri, everyone has stress in their life. But can stress be good sometimes?
2. What do you find stressful?
3. What are some ways to lessen or to manage your stress?

Chapter Four

1. What have you learned so far about Anna Sweet?
2. Anna and Cheri are sisters with very different characters. How does the author use their differences to create conflict?

Chapter Five

1. What does Cheri believe will happen if she files a police report?
2. If you were in Cheri's position, would you have gone to the police before now?

Chapter Six

1. Anna finds out a lot about people by their physical appearance and body language. Do you think that these are good clues to a person's character?

2. Jada Price says that she is tired of being the 'token black woman'. Discuss this statement.
3. In your opinion, do women and visible minorities have equality in the workplace today?

Chapter Seven

1. Anna Sweet's dad taught her not to show when she was hurting and to act like a champion. Are these good lessons to teach children?
2. Anna appears to have forgiven Cheri for stealing her fiancé. What does this say about Anna's character?

Chapter Eight

1. Stereotyping is when we think of a group of people as acting or looking the same way, such as bike gang members. Do you think that people, in general, can be stereotyped?
2. What is the danger of pre-judging or stereotyping people by their job, culture, organization etc.
3. Have you ever had to change your initial opinion of someone after getting to know them?

Chapter Nine

1. In this chapter, we find out a key piece of information about Anna's past. What is revealed in her conversation with her ex-partner?
2. Ryan Hunter tells Anna that she should "get back in the game". What does he mean?
3. Have you ever quit something but then decided to give it another try?

Chapter Ten

1. Anna suspects that Jimmy is cheating again. Do you think that she is being fair?
2. What does Anna mean by "twice is a pattern"?
3. Do you believe that people can really change?

Chapter Eleven

1. Anna now wonders whether Cheri made herself look like a victim to get Jimmy and Evan back. Does this fit with what you know about Cheri's character?
2. How does the author build suspense in this chapter?

Chapter Twelve

1. Anna wonders if Cheri is
 - 1) innocent of the hit and run
 - 2) had lost her mind or
 - 3) was putting on a great act.Discuss the choices. Which do you believe is most likely true?
2. If you were Anna Sweet, what would you do next to find out the truth?

Chapter Thirteen

1. Jimmy and Anna still have a connection even after breaking up and five years apart. Have you ever met a friend after years apart and felt like no time had passed?
2. What qualities do you look for in a close friend?
3. Do you believe Jimmy's version of what is going on?

Chapter Fourteen

1. What does the author reveal about Cheri that helps to explain her behaviour?
2. Do you feel more sympathy for Cheri after learning this new information?
3. What is Anna doing to get at the truth?
4. Do you have any ways to tell if someone is lying?

Chapter Fifteen

1. Why do you think Anna stands by Cheri when she has good reason not to?
2. What does Anna mean when she says that Jimmy looks 'too good'?
3. Sometimes we have to give up doing or having something that we want because it would hurt another person. Can you think of a situation where you have had to make a difficult choice?
4. Do you think Anna's plan will work?

Chapter Sixteen

1. Do you believe as Anna now does that Cheri made everything up to get Jimmy and Evan back?
2. Why do you think Cheri picked this moment to tell Anna that their father might be ill?
3. Do you think that this information will change Anna's plans?

Chapter Seventeen

1. Explain Anna's thinking as she puts together the pieces of the puzzle.

2. Who do you think is in the house with Cheri?
3. What would you do if you were Anna?

Chapter Eighteen

1. Anna listens to a person explaining their reasons for acting as they have. Are you surprised by what Anna finds out?
2. Do you enjoy competing in sports and games or at work?
3. Do you think that we should encourage competition amongst children?
4. Would you call Anna a heroic person?

Chapter Nineteen

1. Why do you think that Anna told the reporters that they had her mixed up with someone else?
2. What does Anna learn about Jimmy when he enters the house?
3. Has Anna's relationship with her father changed over the course of the book?
4. Do you think Jada Price and Anna Sweet will make a good team?