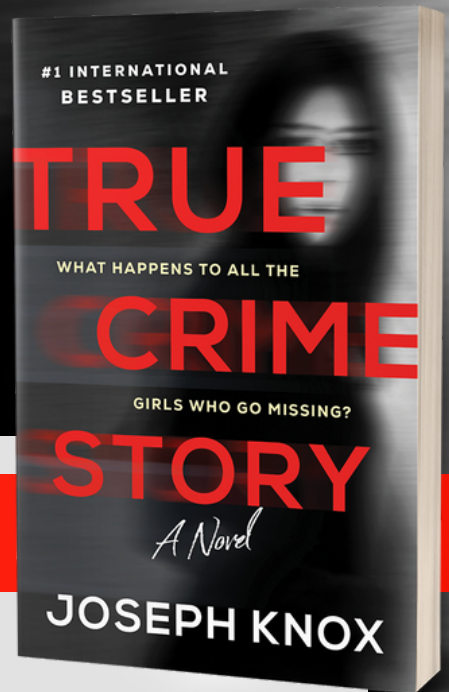


# TRUE CRIME STORY



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Of the cast of characters, who did you gravitate towards?  
Who did you think was most trustworthy? Least trustworthy?
2. Much of Zoe and Kim's dysfunction stems from their father's expectations for them both. Do you think children always reckon with their parents' expectations in one way or another? How can we have expectations for our children without smothering them?
3. What did you think of Kim's attempts to define her own identity? Are we ever "just" ourselves? How are her assertions of individuality seen by the other characters?
4. How did the Tower's reputation disguise the early warning signs that something was wrong in the girls' apartment? Have you ever lived somewhere that felt haunted?
5. Compare Jai and Andrew. How does race affect their roles in the investigation? What other major factors contribute to the way they interact with the story?
6. How would you characterize Liu Wai? What brought her and Zoe together, and how did Liu view their relationship?
7. Evelyn and Joseph provide helpful commentary in their email exchanges. Was there ever an exchange that seemed like a red herring? How do you think their hypotheses changed the way you read the book?
8. Alex Wilson plays a small but tragic part in the larger mystery. How did the other characters justify dismissing her? What impacts did you see from her involvement with Joseph?
9. Zoe's modified essay is the only chance we get to understand her true point of view. How, if at all, did it change your perceptions of her? What do you think is the greatest misconception of her throughout the book?
10. Robert Nolan was one of Evelyn's first doorways into the investigation. What did you make of him initially? Did you find him cooperative? What kind of justice do you think he deserves?
11. In the end, we still don't know exactly what happened to Zoe Nolan. Where do you think she is now? Do you expect answers from true crime? If not, what role does the genre fill?