

BOOK CLUB KIT

WILLIAM LANDAY

New York Times bestselling author of
DEFENDING JACOB

ALL THAT
IS MINE
I CARRY
WITH ME

A Novel

"Crackles with suspense." —STEPHEN KING

NOW IN
PAPERBACK

A LETTER FROM THE AUTHOR

Dear Reader,

The novel *Atonement*, by Ian McEwan, is one reason I am a novelist today. McEwan's great masterpiece is a series of novellas that magically come together at the end to form a coherent whole. I will never, ever forget the exhilaration of the last few pages. The hair on the back of my neck stands up just thinking of it! *Atonement* was one of my inspirations when I sat down to write my novel, *All That Is Mine I Carry With Me*. I wanted to structure the book to demand your attention in a similar way. It is a puzzle that requires assembling. The plot of *All That Is Mine I Carry With Me* involves a married woman who goes missing in 1975 and the rippling effects of that tragedy on her family, especially her children, in the decades that follow. It is not, or not just, a mystery or a courtroom thriller. It is a novel about a crime, not a crime novel. It captures experiences we all share: the sense of loss that comes with growing up; doubting our parents as we learn, sadly, that they are only flawed fellow-adults, like all of us; the helplessness that comes with living in a modern world that is too complex to fathom, let alone to fix. These are grandiose claims to make for any book, and I am not a grandiose person. But I think a little grandiosity is good in a writer; grandiosity is only ambition. A writer should swing for the fences. I hope you enjoy *All That Is Mine I Carry With Me*.

Cheers,

Bill Landay

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *All That Is Mine I Carry With Me* explores a number of thought-provoking themes, including family, loyalty, grief, secrets, and the fragility of relationships. Which theme resonated the most deeply with you and why?
2. In addition to being a crime novel, *All That Is Mine I Carry With Me* is also a family drama and a character study, following the Larkin family and the impact of Jane's disappearance over decades. How did these events shape the lives of Alex, Jeff, and Miranda as adults? And why do you think this case stuck so deeply with Detective Glover and George Ballis, the lawyer?
3. The author takes care to emphasize how defining a case this was in public memory, writing:

“In the fall of ’75, believe me, if you lived in Boston, you knew who Jane Larkin was. The local media feasted on the story, particularly in the first few weeks after her disappearance.”

True crime is often sensationalized and prominently featured in news headlines and the public eye. Why do you think people become so invested in cases from afar?

4. Aside from being the translation of the Latin text in Miranda's tattoo, what do you think the title of the novel means?
5. Each part of novel is told from a different character's point of view. How did that deepen the story? Did any section particularly stand out for you? If so, why?
6. Book 2, which initially seems to be written from Jane's perspective, turns out to have been written by Miranda as a creative outlet. What did you think of that section? What does that tell us about how Miranda has been impacted by her mother's disappearance and the long unanswered uncertainty surrounding that event?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

7. How did each of the characters change over the course of the novel?
8. There are many intense family scenes in *All That Is Mine I Carry With Me*. Which ones stayed with you most and why?
9. A little more than halfway through the novel, after Jane's bones are found and the DA decides not to pursue a case against Dan, there's a tense discussion between the family. Did you side with Jane's sister Kate or Dan's son Alex, and why? What would you have done in that situation?
10. There are a number of secrets revealed over the course of the narrative, including Dan's assault of Jane and Jane's suicide attempt, neither of which were discussed for a long time. Why do you think Kate and Jeff kept these secrets? Have you ever kept such an impactful secret from your loved ones?
11. What message was Kate trying to convey with the Bible verse she had the priest read at Jane's burial ceremony?
12. While reading *All That Is Mine I Carry With Me*, did you believe Dan murdered Jane? Why or why not? When and how did you come to that conclusion? Were you thrown off by the red herrings?
13. How did you feel at the end of the novel? What message(s) did you take away from reading it?

WHO'S WHO IN ALL THAT IS MINE I CARRY WITH ME

THE LARKIN FAMILY

DAN LARKIN

Husband of Jane Larkin,
primary suspect in her
disappearance, living
with Alzheimer's.

JANE LARKIN

Mother of Alex, Jeff, and
Miranda, disappeared on
November 12, 1975.

JEFF LARKIN

Son of Jane and Dan
Larkin, never got
over his mother's
disappearance.

MIRANDA LARKIN

Daughter of Jane and Dan
Larkin, photographer and
painter, first noticed her
mother's disappearance,
caring for her father with
Alzheimer's.

ALEX LARKIN

Son of Jane and Dan
Larkin, resistant
to resurfacing the
investigation.

OTHER PEOPLE TO KNOW

JAMIE BENNETT

Sarah's daughter,
who becomes
involved with Jeff.

SARAH BENNETT

Dan Larkin's secret
girlfriend (prior to
Jane's disappearance).

GEORGE M. BAILIS

Lawyer that Kate, Jeff,
and Miranda use to
sue Dan.

DETECTIVE TOM GLOVER

Policeman who refuses
to give up on finding
Jane Larkin.

PHILIP SOLOMON

Former school
classmate of Jeff Larkin,
investigating Jane Larkin's
disappearance.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEARY

The DA who decided not
to indict Dan in Jane's
disappearance.

LAUREL MARCUS

Alex Larkin's wife.

AUNT KATE

Jane Larkin's sister,
never trusted Dan.

DRINK PAIRINGS



Philip

A drink fit for a writer.
Contemplative. Curious.
Try a glass of red wine.



Jeff

A drink for someone
stuck in the past.
Bloody Mary.



Miranda

A drink for feeling deeply.
Margarita.



Detective Glover

A drink for someone old-school.
Determined to get to the truth.
Irish coffee.