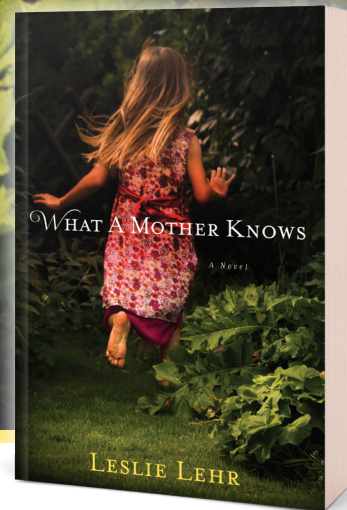


WHAT A MOTHER KNOWS

BY LESLIE LEHR



SET THE MOOD...

- Stream the What a Mother Knows Best playlist created by Leslie Lehr on Spotify, which features artists such as The Doors, Coldplay, and Bruce Springsteen. You can find it here: <http://www.leslielehr.com/what-a-mother-knows/book-club-bonus.html>.
- Hollywood-themed decorations are an easy option. Display a homemade Hollywood sign, include photos of your favorite celebrities, and give away sunglasses as favors.
- Or, set up several tables decorated to represent the various cities in the book—Hawaii, Key West, Hollywood, and New York City.

FOOD AND DRINK...

- If you like bubbles, go for Sparkling water or wine, and champagne. Coconut-mango mojitos or Hawaii Mai Tais are delicious tropical concoctions.
- California-style appetizers are light, fresh, and easy to make for a larger crowd. Serve a crudité of tropical fruit, vegetable sushi rolls, chicken salad with avocado and mango, or shrimp tacos.
- For dessert, you can't go wrong with Key Lime Pie or Lemon Bars! You'll find the delicious recipes below.

*“Dark and unsettling, but with a ray of hope like a splash of light, and a **knockout ending** you won’t see coming.”*

—Caroline Leavitt, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Pictures of You*

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In *What a Mother Knows*, Michelle Mason is struggling with a terrifying, unthinkable scenario: a boy is dead, her daughter is missing, and she's being held responsible. What's worse is that she can't remember the role she played in any of it. As she travels across the country, desperate to put the pieces together, we're reminded how powerful our memories can be, and how much they define who we ultimately become.

ASK YOUR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS TO:

Think about a memory that had a defining effect on their lives. Then pose the following questions:

- Why is that memory so important?
- Do you believe that you're remembering things exactly as they happened, or has time altered your perception of what occurred?
- Has your feeling toward this memory changed as you've gotten older? Why?
- What would happen if you lost that memory? How would life have turned out differently?

ADDITIONAL IDEAS:

Leslie Lehr created boards on Pinterest for each of the novel's main characters. Have attendees view the boards here: www.leslielehr.com/what-a-mother-knows/special-features.html.

- Do they agree with what was included? Is there anything they would add or remove for any of the characters?
- Encourage them to think about what they would highlight if they were creating Pinterest boards about themselves?

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RECIPES FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB...

Lemon Bars *(Yields 3 dozen bars)*

- **Crust Ingredients:** 2 cups flour, ½ cup powdered sugar, 1 cup butter (softened)
- **Crust Directions:**
 1. Sift flour and powdered sugar together.
 2. Cut in butter until mixture clings together.
 3. Press into greased 9x13x2 inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes or until lightly browned.
- **Filling Ingredients:** 4 eggs, beaten, 2 cups sugar, 1/3 cup lemon juice, ¼ cup flour, ½ tsp. baking power
- **Filling Directions:**
 1. Combine eggs, sugar and lemon juice; beat well.
 2. Sift flour and baking powder; stir into egg mixture. Pour over baked crust.
 3. Bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes. Cool; sprinkle with powdered sugar and cut into bars.

“*What a Mother Knows* is a poignant, powerful novel.”

—Jillian Medoff, bestselling author of *I Couldn't Love You More* and *Hunger Point*

CONTINUED...

WHAT A MOTHER KNOWS

BY LESLIE LEHR



RECIPES FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB CONTINUED...

Key Lime Pie

- **Ingredients:** 1 (9 inch) prepared graham cracker crust, 3 cups sweetened condensed milk, ½ cup sour cream, ¾ cup key lime juice, 1 T grated lime zest
- **Directions:**
 1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
 2. In a medium bowl, combine condensed milk, sour cream, lime juice, and lime rind. Mix well and pour into graham cracker crust.
 3. Bake in preheated oven for 5 to 8 minutes, until tiny pinhole bubbles burst on the surface of pie. **DO NOT BROWN!** Chill pie thoroughly before serving. Garnish with lime slices and whipped cream if desired.

“The elements of Hollywood moviemaking and tabloid hedonism blend nicely with the desperate franticness of, say, S. J. Watson’s *Before I Go to Sleep*.”

—Booklist

“Poignantly written with a mystery at its center, Lehr’s latest explores the lengths a mother will go for her child. ... a worthwhile read.”

—RT Book Reviews