

THE GIRL WHO WASN'T THERE

DISCUSSION GUIDE



For fans of Karen M. McManus and Kara Thomas comes this riveting new young adult crime thriller packed with mystery and suspense, from the acclaimed author of *I Have No Secrets*

Nothing ever happens on Kasia's street. And Kasia would know, because her chronic illness keeps her stuck at home, watching the outside world from her bedroom window. So when she witnesses what looks like a kidnapping, she's not sure whether she can believe her own eyes...

There had been a girl in the window across the street who must have seen something too. But when Kasia ventures out to find her, she is told the most shocking thing of all: There is no girl.



About the Author

PENNY JOELSON was born in London where she still lives with her husband and two children and teaches creative writing. She began working with disabled people when she was a teenager, which gave her the inspiration and insight for *I Have No Secrets*. Find Penny on Twitter: @pennyjoelson

Praise for *The Girl Who Wasn't There*

"A great, FAST-PACED THRILLER for younger teens, this novel explores important real-world issues."

—School Library Journal

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1. What did you know about ME/CFS (Myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome) before reading the book, and what do you know now?
2. Do you have elderly or isolated neighbors who might appreciate you stopping by? What would you think they would appreciate the most out of a visit from you and/or your family?
3. If your friend were ill and housebound, how would you try to sustain the friendship and what difficulties do you foresee?
4. Why does Nav think Kasia stopped speaking to him, and what is the real reason? Do you agree or disagree with how Kasia handled the situation? Why?
5. Have you ever fallen out with a friend/ family member over a misunderstanding? How was it resolved?
6. How does Kasia feel about her brother? Is he right to have behaved the way he did?
7. How would you react if you saw someone at the window of a house near yours, but never saw them come outside? Would you talk to your family first, or approach the neighboring house first?
8. What were your first thoughts when Kasia saw the girl across the street? Who did you think she was, and what did you think was going on? What did you think when you found out the truth?
9. How did you react to Kasia's classmates' misunderstanding ME/CFS and their assumption that she should be fine to go to class? How would you react in the same situation if you were an outsider to Kasia's life?
10. What part of the story did you enjoy most and why?
11. What do you take away from this story?