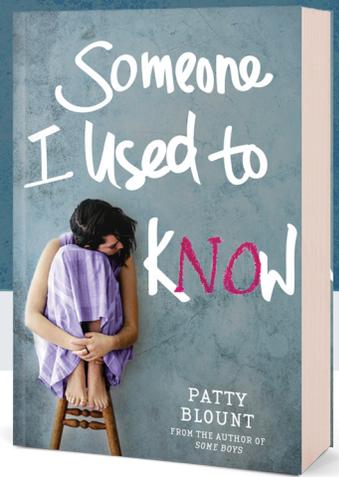


# Someone I Used to Know

by PATTY BLOUNT



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In navigating the issue of society's responses to rape and sexual assault, the author uses two main characters, siblings Ashley and Derek. How does their relationship magnify those responses? Why do you think the author chose to have two narrators tell this story?
2. How have additional characters in this book reflected society's real-world responses to rape?
3. We see both Ashley's and Derek's reactions to the team scavenger hunt. How would you react to such an activity? How would your opinion change if you were Derek? If you were Ashley? If you were Sebastian?
4. The #MeToo movement has exposed just how many untold stories of rape, abuse, and assault there are. How do you respond to the real accounts you're exposed to? Has reading *Someone I Used to Know* changed the way you'll respond in the future? How?
5. How does a person's gender influence their response to stories like *Someone I Used to Know*? How about to #MeToo accounts? How can a novel like this change minds?
6. In terms of theme, *Someone I Used to Know* deals a lot with fault and blame and how the person at fault isn't always the person blamed. How is this distinction exhibited in the siblings' relationship?
7. Throughout the story, the author refers to a number of real-world examples of rape culture—like inappropriate messages in advertising. What other examples of rape culture can you identify in the novel? What about in your life? Can you think of ways to fight those examples, as Ashley did with her pledge form and later her Pinterest board?
8. *Someone I Used to Know* has a somewhat complicated structure in which chapters alternate between Ashley and Derek and the timelines flash back and forth between now and before. What did you think about Ashley and Derek's relationship before the rape? What about after? How do you think the siblings have changed by the end of the book?
9. In *Someone I Used to Know*, organized sports is used as a backdrop for the incident that occurs. Why do you think the author made that choice?
10. Do you see actual, real-world events reflected in *Someone I Used to Know*?
11. One of the most important themes in *Someone I Used to Know* is forgiveness. What is its significance to Ashley? To Derek? To the rest of their family?