

Searching for Sylvie Lee

author: Jean Kwok

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Synopsis

author	Jean Kwok
readBy	Angela Lin, Samantha Quan, Caroline McLaughlin
inLanguage	english

An Instant New York Times Bestseller!

A Read with Jenna Today Show Book Club Pick & Emma Roberts Belletrist Book Club Pick!

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Time Marie Claire Elle Buzzfeed Huffington Post Good Housekeeping The Week Goodreads New York Post and many more!

“Powerful . . . A twisting tale of love, loss, and dark family secrets.” Paula Hawkins, #1 New York Times bestselling author of The Girl on the Train and Into the Water

A poignant and suspenseful drama that untangles the complicated ties binding three women—two sisters and their mother—in one Chinese immigrant family and explores what happens when the eldest daughter disappears, and a series of family secrets emerge, from the New York Times bestselling author of Girl in Translation

It begins with a mystery. Sylvie, the beautiful, brilliant, successful older daughter of the Lee family, flies to the Netherlands for one final visit with her dying grandmother—and then vanishes.

Amy, the sheltered baby of the Lee family, is too young to remember a time

when her parents were newly immigrated and too poor to keep Sylvie. Seven years older, Sylvie was raised by a distant relative in a faraway, foreign place, and didn't rejoin her family in America until age nine. Timid and shy, Amy has always looked up to her sister, the fierce and fearless protector who showered her with unconditional love.

But what happened to Sylvie? Amy and her parents are distraught and desperate for answers. Sylvie has always looked out for them. Now, it's Amy's turn to help. Terrified yet determined, Amy retraces her sister's movements, flying to the last place Sylvie was seen. But instead of simple answers, she discovers something much more valuable: the truth. Sylvie, the golden girl, kept painful secrets . . . secrets that will reveal more about Amy's complicated family and herself than she ever could have imagined.

A deeply moving story of family, secrets, identity, and longing, *Searching for Sylvie Lee* is both a gripping page-turner and a sensitive portrait of an immigrant family. It is a profound exploration of the many ways culture and language can divide us and the impossibility of ever truly knowing someone—especially those we love.

“This is a true beach read! You can't put it down!” — Jenna Bush Hager, *Today Show Book Club Pick*

This audiobook includes an episode of the Book Club Girl Podcast, featuring an interview with Jean Kwok about *Searching for Sylvie Lee*.

Reader's comments

comment 1: Emily Chen

Jean Kwok's 'Searching for Sylvie Lee' is an evocative and deeply emotional tale that explores the intricacies of family ties, cultural identity, and the immigrant experience. The novel seamlessly weaves together the perspectives of three women: Sylvie Lee, her sister Amy, and their mother. As Sylvie mysteriously disappears, Amy embarks on a journey that takes her from New York to the Netherlands, unraveling complex family secrets along the way. Kwok masterfully captures the tension between the protagonist's Chinese-American heritage and the Western world they inhabit, highlighting the universal struggles of belonging and identity. Her lyrical prose and keen insights into the characters' inner worlds create a poignant narrative that resonates with authenticity and depth. The novel is not just a mystery but a profound exploration of what it means to be part of a family that spans continents and cultures. Kwok's ability to blend suspense with heartfelt emotion makes 'Searching for Sylvie Lee' a compelling read that lingers long after the final page. It's a testament to the enduring power of love and the bonds that connect us, no matter the distance. This book is a must-read for anyone seeking a story that is both thrilling and profoundly moving.

â€”â€” Emily Chen (2026-05-30 18:20:03)