Reading Group Guide: YOU CAN NEVER TELL

1. In the first transcript of the podcast *Crime to Chat*, Helen says, "This is a story about friends." How does making friends as an adult differ from making friends as a child? Do you think women and men navigate friendships differently? Are there examples in the book that come to mind?

2. Kacy's story is interspersed with transcripts from a fictional true-crime podcast. Did this add to your experience of the book? Why do you think true crime is so popular?

3. An important aspect of the book is identity. How does Kacy try to reinvent herself in Texas? Do you find this relatable? What works and what doesn't? Did your opinion of Kacy evolve over the novel?

4. Kacy tells Lena, "Good friends are the only ones worth keeping." But friendships take time. Kacy's closest friends in Texas are Rahmia, Elizabeth, Alondra, and Lena. What do each bring to the relationship….and what do they bring out in Kacy? How does she figure out who she can count on?

6. How would you describe Michael and Kacy's marriage? Were there moments where you thought their relationship might be in jeopardy? What do you think is essential to a successful long-term relationship?

7. The identity of the killers is revealed relatively early in the book. Did you find this killed the suspense? What moments heightened or lessened the tension for you?

8. Pivotal moments in this novel might include Kacy throwing a cup in the bathroom, Kacy and Michael in the nursery closet, Kacy leaving her parents and Grace at the police station. If she'd made different choices at these moments, how might her life be different? Are there other moments in the novel that strike you as pivotal? Did you recognize pivotal moments in your own life when they were happening?

9. How did you feel at the end of this novel? What do you think the future looks like for Kacy and Michael?