



Are You Sara?

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Introduction

Two women named Sara each get into a rideshare. . . but only one makes it home alive. Which Sara was the real target?

Law student Saraswati “Sara” Bhaduri holds down two jobs in order to make her way through school, but it’s still a struggle. She’s had to do things to pay the bills that most people wouldn’t expect from “a nice Indian girl.” It seems like an ordinary busy Tuesday night at the local dive bar until her boss demands Sara deal with a drunk girl in the bathroom.

The two become fast friends. Why? Because they both have the same name. And despite their different circumstances, the two connect. When they both order rideshares home, they tumble in the back of the cars and head out into the night.

But when Sara awakes in her rideshare, she finds she's on the wrong side of town—the *rich* side—and she realizes: she and Sarah took the wrong cars home.

With no money, Sara walks back to her apartment on the shady side of town only to discover police lights flashing and a body crumpled on her doorstep: Sarah.

Was Sarah Ellis or Sara Bhaduri the target? And why would anyone want either of them dead?

In this smart, twisty novel about ambition, wealth, and dangerous longing, the layers are peeled back on two young women desperate to break out of the expectations placed on them, with devastating results.

Questions for Discussion

1. Sara and Ellis both struggle by the weight of expectations places on them by society, their families, and themselves. Discuss the expectations each of the characters feel, and how they handle them.
 2. Jason hires Sara because he quickly understood she had the capacity to manipulate people and get them to do whatever she wants. What are some examples of times when Sara intentionally got what she wanted from other characters?
 3. Sara refuses to use sex as power, while sex often makes Ellis feel powerless. How do each of these women view and manage romantic relationship and encounters, and why? Does that change over the course of the novel?
 4. Were you surprised when you found out who killed Ellis, and why? What were the clues that you caught or overlooked?
 5. Sara believes her professor Madison Miles is a strong woman of color, yet does not view her as a role model. Why is that? How do Sara and Madison similarly and differently approach their career ambitions as women of color in an industry dominated by white men?
 6. Discuss the choice Sara makes at the end of the book. What do you think she mean when she says “[n]o one gets what they deserve. They get what they have the courage to take”?
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