



I Know You Know

Gilly Macmillan

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Twenty years ago, eleven-year-olds Charlie Page and Scott Ashby were murdered in the city of Bristol, their bodies dumped near a dog racing track. A man was convicted of the brutal crime, but decades later, questions still linger.

For his whole life, filmmaker Cody Swift has been haunted by the deaths of his childhood best friends. The loose ends of the police investigation consume him so much that he decides to return to Bristol in search of answers. Hoping to uncover new evidence, and to encourage those who may be keeping long-buried secrets to speak up, Cody starts a podcast to record his findings. But there are many people who don't want the case—along with old wounds—reopened so many years after the tragedy, especially Charlie's mother, Jess, who decides to take matters into her own hands.

When a long-dead body is found in the same location the boys were left decades before, the disturbing discovery launches another murder investigation. Now Detective John Fletcher, the investigator on the original case, must reopen his dusty files and decide if the two murders are linked. With his career at risk, the clock is ticking and lives are in jeopardy...

I Know You Know Details

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From Reader Review I Know You Know for online ebook

Nancy Ahyee says

I received an advance reader's edition of this book as a Goodreads Giveaway. Expected publication is in September 2018.

"I Know You Know" tells the story of the murder of two 11-year-old boys, revisited 20 years later after the man convicted of the crime (Sidney Noyce) kills himself in prison and a man's body is uncovered near the original murder site. Scott Ashby and Charlie Paige were best friends, along with Cody Swift. Cody was being punished the night the boys were killed, which is the reason he wasn't with them. As an adult, Cody begins recording and airing a podcast and starts dredging up details based on an article by a reporter who covered the original trial and doesn't believe that the right man was convicted. Interesting premise, not so interesting execution.

The first few chapters hooked me pretty well. I wanted to find out how the murders 20 years ago tied to the discovery of the body in the present day. Throughout the book, we meet many characters who are developed well – the detectives on the original case, Charlie's mother and her current family, her former "boyfriend" Felix, and a variety of other characters who seem more incidental to the story. The exception in character development is Cody Swift, and he's the one we should know the most about. He felt to me like a faceless public radio personality. His voice in my imagination was very humdrum and quiet, almost like he was introducing "the soothing sounds of smooth jazz" or something – not at all like a true crime/detective recording, which is what he was portraying. And every chapter that was an episode of the podcast had the lines: "My name is Cody Swift. I'm a filmmaker and your host of 'It's Time to Tell,' a Dishlicker Podcast Production." By the end of the book, I had had enough of Cody's introductions, and his podcasts were excruciatingly boring. I'm not a listener of podcasts, but if they all play dialog like this, I'm not missing anything.

"Annette, hello! Is that really you?"

"You're all grown up, Cody Swift. Look at you!"

"You recognized me right away!"

"You've still got that up-to-no-good look about you."

"Really? I'm not sure that's a good thing!"

Spoilers ahead

I felt like there were a lot of things wrong with the plotlines.

First, you have a detective who is portrayed as really caring about putting away the person who killed the two boys, but he destroys evidence, covers up for pimp-turned-PR-guy Felix, helps frame the lead investigator on the case to get him pulled off the case, convinces witnesses to fit their statements and testimony to his story, and pries a false confession out of the mentally handicapped Sidney, ignoring all other leads.

Second, when the new body is uncovered near where the boys were killed, the reader almost has to believe that the murders are unrelated and years apart because how could the man's body not be discovered at the same time as the boys. Through the course of the book, however, we learn that the boys were killed because they saw the other crime taking place. Why would the killer hide one body and leave the other two out in the open? And supposedly the killer hid the body so well that it wasn't found for 20 years?! And the man who was killed was reported missing two days later, and no one questioned whether there was a connection?

There's also the fact that Charlie was found alive, and muttered the word "ghost" before he died in the detective's arms. The author tries to bring that reference full circle at the end of the book, and it's completely irrelevant in my opinion. But you're telling me that no one investigated that 20 years before?

Third, we find out that Cody actually knew all along what happened to his friends, kept quiet all of these years, and only came forward when the article came out because he wanted a publicity stunt to start a new business...using the pimp/PR guy as his PR guy.

Finally, the actual killer is already dead and doesn't even get his comeuppance. What a letdown!

I just didn't enjoy this at all. And the book title should have just been "It's Time to Tell." That's the name of Cody's podcast, and it just seems more fitting. I didn't find a reference to "I Know You Know" anywhere.

My opinion...skip this one.

Judy Collins says

Loved!!! Her best yet. *Review to follow.*

Donna says

Wasn't impressed but maybe you will be

Lisa says

Thank you very much Harper Collins Canada and William Morrow for an e-ARC of I Know You Know by Gilly Macmillan. Available September 18, 2018.

Twenty years ago two boys, Charlie and Scott, were found murdered and a man was convicted. When questions arise as to whether justice was served, Cody Swift starts a podcast to investigate. He was friends with the two boys and wants justice but many people wish the past would stay buried. Charlie's mother Jessica in particular wants the podcast stopped before her past is dragged up again. Meanwhile, Detective Fletcher, the man who found the boys so many years ago, is called to the same scene again. This time a long dead body has been uncovered and now he must decide if these two cases are linked.

My favourite part of I Know You Know was the podcast style interruptions along the way. It was such an interesting and different way to bring up characters and facts from the original case without the usual time jumps. Most of the information about the original case was discussed in the "episodes" or memories of the characters brought back. I thought it made the whole story move smoother as well as adding realism to bits and pieces being doled out as the plot is revealed. It made for a very twisty story and I was sure I knew the truth a couple times just to have more information revealed to change my mind.

I Know You Know is a twisty, complicated, fun book and I highly recommend it.

Michelle says

Review can be found on my blog here: <https://booksonthebookshelf.wordpress...>

Thank you to the Publisher Harper Collins and Edelweiss for the free eARC copy of this book to read and review.

This was the first novel I have read by Gilly Macmillan and was thrilled to receive a copy of this book after reading so many wonderful reviews on this book.

This book follows the story of two murder cases that are 20 years apart. Are the murders related somehow?

20 years ago two children Charlie Paige and Scott Ashby, both age 11, are murdered and their bodies were found near a dog racing track. A man was found guilty and convicted of the murders but several years later many questions surrounding the case re-surface. Cody Swift was friends with the boys who were murdered all those years ago, and wants to find answers to his many questions about the case.

20 years later another dead body is found in the same location as the two boys who were murdered all those years ago. The body appears to have been there for quite some time. The detective who worked on the murder case 20 years ago is called upon to work on this new case, and must retrieve all the old files to compare to the new murder investigation.

This book was a good read from beginning to end. It captivates you and commands your interest quite early on, and leaves you wanting to know more as you turn the pages to uncover the truth of what happened all those years ago when those two young boys were murdered and how it relates to the recently discovered body that was found in the same location.

Everything is not as it appears to be and secrets are revealed. The story unfolds and jumps from the present timeline to the past, but is easy to follow along.

There were some parts of the book that I found slow going and hard to get into, especially the podcasts parts in the book, but it all came together nicely to tell the story. I really enjoyed reading about Jess, Charlie's mother. Her character I found to be quite interesting.

Overall a good book and I look forward to reading more titles by this author.

3.5 stars

Sarah says

Wow! Just, wow! Still reeling after completion of this well-written, thoroughly absorbing thriller. Once again, hats off to yet another British author. Is it something in the tea? Because the writers from across the pond excel at their craft.

In 1996 two young boys were brutally murdered (is murder ever NOT brutal?) their bodies dumped near a dog track. A mentally challenged man was convicted of the crime and sentenced to prison. Twenty years later, haunted by the deaths of his childhood best buds, Cody Swift begins a podcast series tackling long lingering questions about the murders. This reexamination of the past threatens the lives and careers of the families and detectives connected to the case. Is the truth worth the cost?

Gilly Macmillan's page turner hooked me from the start, kept me reeled in, then shocked me with the final

few pages.

Jamie Rosenblit says

Hands down one of the best thrillers I have read this year - the dual timeline/flashback/podcast format kept the plot moving quickly and kept me guessing - all while maintaining a great element of suspense. As plot twists were revealed, I found myself needing more and more - until the very last page. The plot is centered around a 20 year old murder of 2 young boys and the three perspectives are Cody, the third best friend of the boys who survived that night by lucky fortune, Jess, the mom of one of the boys and Detective John Fletcher, the officer who found the bodies of the two boys.

There are a lot of people in this story that are keeping secrets - but what are they are why? The answers might surprise you, I know they surprised me.

I received an advance copy. All opinions are my own.

Linda says

Three and a half star is my actual rating despite most of the characters depicted are totally unlikable. Also, some readers may find the story line involving the twenty-year-old murders of two preteen boys difficult. However, Ms. Macmillan expertly recounts a very complex tale filled with very interesting, if detestable, characters.

Twenty years ago Detective John Fletcher solved the case of the murders of Charlie Paige and Scott Ashby. But when the convicted murderer commits suicide in prison and another dead body is uncovered near the old murders's site the past begins to haunt him. Coincidentally, Cory Swift the best friend of the dead boys begins a podcast called It's Time to Tell at the same time. The action shifts from past to present and details the lives of the families and police officers involved with the podcast wrecking havoc on all of them. Are the old and new murders connected? Was the wrong man convicted? Will anyone involved escape the re-investigation unscathed? More importantly, do any of these people deserve peace? Avarice, manipulation, amorality, and damning secrets are just a few of the themes Ms. Macmillan adroitly weaves into this character study. Once you start it, you will not want to stop reading this grim tale of failed humanity.

Thank you First Reads Giveaway and William Morrow for my ARC and an early opportunity to read the latest Gilly Macmillan!

Carrie says

Thanks to Goodreads Firstreads and William Morrow for an arc of *I Know You Know* by Gilly Macmillan. The following is my honest review of the book:

If you've never had the opportunity to read anything by Gilly Macmillan and you like thrillers, I highly recommend you pick up one of her books and dive in. To date, I've been hooked on everything I've read by her.

In this book, two boys were brutally murdered twenty years ago and their bodies were dumped near a dog racing track.. Due to a piece of luck and some bad childhood behavior, a third boy, a friend of theirs, was grounded and not allowed to play with the boys that evening. Therefore he escaped the attack but was left haunted by their deaths for years to come. When a body is discovered at the same location many years later (although the body was left long ago), Detective John Fletcher wonders if the two cases are somehow connected. A special needs man was convicted of killing the boys after he confessed to Fletcher, but all is not as it seems.

In the meantime, Cody Swift, the surviving friend, has decided to create a podcast to explore the possibility that the wrong man was convicted of the crime that occurred so long ago. As Cody begins to question people who were involved with the case, it is apparent that lies were told and secrets were kept. How did John Fletcher gain his confession? Where was the mother of one of the murdered children when the crime was occurring? Is there a connection between the discovery of the recently found body and the murder of the boys from years ago? Who killed the boys and why?

I absolutely loved the format used to tell this story. It alternates between the past and the present and is told from various character viewpoints. In addition, episodes of the podcast by Cody Swift are interlaced with the narrative. The result is a multi-perspective telling of the story and the reader really becomes unsure who is believable and who is not. Beyond that, the formatting allows the reader to get a true sense of who characters are based on the feelings others had about them. For instance, the man who is convicted of the crime is mentally challenged. One character paints a picture of a short tempered suspect who likely snapped at not being included. His mother, however, tells the story of a man who never grew up and just wanted to fit in, although he was often tortured by the neighborhood boys. Then Cody Swift, tells his perception of the man based on how he felt about him when he was a child and now looking back on him as an adult. It's very interesting to get such a broad perspective of a character and realize how easily people get misunderstood. The same applies for Charlie's (one of the murdered boys) mother, Jess. At one point, as a reader, you want to hate her and feel nothing but disgust for her. But in other scenes, your heart simply breaks for her. She was a young mother, with no support system, and had no idea how to cope. Then her child is murdered. Can you imagine the guilt, grief, and possibly even relief she felt? Macmillan makes sure you can imagine it just so.

One particular passage really grabbed me: (it occurs after Charlie's mom has left him alone all night):
His eyes were red and puffy, the imprint of a creased pillow slip looked like a scar on his cheek. "Where were you?" he said. "I didn't know where you were." The reproach in his voice and in his eyes shamed her. Claustrophobia and the squalor of the flat settled on her shoulders like a heavy cloak and she screamed at him. "Shut up!"

Charlie stared at her. He was beautiful, she thought. Why was she shouting? Light came through the kitchen window and framed the back of his head, turning his mat of hair golden. His forearms were slender and strong. His face was bursting with feelings she couldn't cope with.

As a reader, her feelings of shame, despair, and love are palpable. It's impossible not to feel her struggle. So well written, in my opinion (as was the book as a whole!).

Without a doubt, this was a great read and highly recommended.

Heidi says

I first came across the "book within a book" concept in Emily Carpenter's *The Weight of Lies*, and I totally fell in love with it. Since then there have been a few books that have featured social media or podcasts in

their stories, such as *Are You Sleeping* by Kathleen Barber and *Our House* by Louise Candlish, and I have hoovered them up hungrily. I love Gilly Macmillan's writing, and her new book was one of my most anticipated new releases this year, but when I discovered that it, too, features a true crime podcast I was ecstatic (and threw my whole reading schedule up in the air by snatching it up before my other books from my TBR pile patiently waiting for attention)! You may have gathered my adoration for this book from my star-crossed rating – this was one very clever mystery!

Reviewing mysteries that rely on shock and surprise and unexpected developments is always tricky, because one little spoiler can ruin the book for someone. I advise to go into this one blind – you will thank me later. But for those of you who absolutely have to know a little bit about it, I will try to tread very carefully:

During the excavations for a new shopping centre, human remains are unearthed near the scene of the double murder of two teenage boys from a nearby housing estate twenty years ago. For the detectives who found the two victims all those years ago, this latest discovery brings back terrible memories – murders of children always hit the hardest. At the time, a mentally handicapped young man was found guilty of the murders and jailed, and has recently died in prison whilst serving his sentence for the crime. But with a John Doe on their hands so close to the crime scene, the detectives are left wondering: could the two cases be connected? At the same time, Cody Swift, a young filmmaker who used to be best friends with the two murdered teenagers, has returned to his hometown to look for answers to some questions that have always bugged him in the years since his friends died. Together with his girlfriend Maya, he sets out to interview all people involved in the case, and publish his findings in a true crime podcast. But as Cody gets closer to the truth, there are some people who will do anything to keep the past hidden ...

I loved the podcast element in this story, with its breadcrumb like trail of clues surrounding the murder of the two teenagers. As the red herrings come rolling in, I was ready to pat myself on the shoulder for being such a good detective and figuring it all out – only to be proven massively wrong yet again. It's safe to say that no one in this story is as they seem. Isn't that the best kind of mystery? I thought so. Totally engrossed, I kept turning the pages way past the time of night where I could expect to be a functioning human being the next day.

In summary, I loved everything about this extremely clever mystery, from its flawed, believable characters to the chilling crime at the centre of the story – and of course the “book in a book” (or “podcast in a book”) theme, that added that special something to the story. Told from multiple POVs, this one kept me guessing until the “big bang” at the very end that upended all my carefully constructed theories. Brilliantly written, as is Macmillan's usual style, it gets all the stars from me – very highly recommended!

Thank you to Edelweiss and William Morrow Paperbacks for the free electronic copy of this novel and for giving me the opportunity to provide an honest review.

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Lisa says

I enjoyed this book and kept interested all throughout the story. It kept you wondering about who was guilty of what. None of the characters had a likable personality, so it was hard to feel bad for any of them. The story was tricky and twisting. Definitely a great beach read or plane ride book. A page turner and good mystery.

Mary Kubica says

Gilly Macmillan is a master when it comes to creating perfectly-plotted psychological suspense and characters with real emotion and depth. *I KNOW YOU KNOW* is a smart thriller that will keep readers on the edge of their seats, from the first gripping chapter all the way through to the mind-blowing finale. Add this to your to-read list.

Linda Lipko says

This tale holds the reader, until the plot thickens and becomes too convoluted. Still, it is worth the read because this is an author who knows how to write suspense. Approximately 20 years earlier, two eleven year old boys were found buried in a space behind a local dog race track. Detective John Fletcher was on scene, and sadly, one of the children died in his arms.

Fast forward to current time when the body of a man is found in the same area, and detective Fletcher is anxious to find a thread linking the murder of the boys and the murder of a local near-do-well man who scammed many out of their life savings.

Cody Swift was one of the three boys who were constantly at each other's side in a run down, poverty-stricken neighborhood. Two were murdered, and because he disobeyed his mother and was made to stay inside on the night his childhood friends were murdered, his life was spared.

Now an adult, and still haunted by the death of his friends, Cody starts a pod cast. Opening up the story of the tragic death of his friends upsets more than a few members of the community, including John Fletcher.

A mentally challenged man was charged with the crime of murdering two boys. He hung himself. Cody and others doubt that the man charged was guilty. John Fletcher may know this truth, and hopefully the pod cast will solve who really murdered the young boys.

The premise of the book is good; the writing is above average, but still, I was disappointed at the convolution at the end. When I have to go back and read pages because the story is difficult to follow, then, I deem the book wanting.

I wish that the end would have been wrapped up in a more clear manner.

Barbara Senteney says

Cody Swift is a filmmaker who lost his 2 best friends at age 11. He was supposed to go with them, and play

by the dog tracks where the boys knew they weren't allowed to be. Jessica Page the mother of Charlie (one of the murdered boys mother's was drunk when she came home to the news that the boys were dead. She has 72 missing minutes she can't account for. A young retarded man 9 Sidney Noyce)was quickly scooped up and coerced into an admission of guilt. Fletcher the lead detective took the scenic route to the station and told that it was basically his fault they died for not getting help, and so the long story of police jumping the gun to pin the murder on the first suspect to come along. Cody is out to get the truth. He is doing live podcast on the internet and asking all the right questions. Questions some may not want answered. Jessica is now a mother and wife and lives a quiet life, but there was once a wild side to this sweet looking woman. Did her neglect cause the death of her son and his friend?Or could she have been the suspect all along?

This story was well written and thought out. The characters are memorable, although some are less than likeable. Cody was vigilant in finding out the truth so you had to admire his loyalty and commitment. Jess was sad and riddled with guilt. Fletcher the detective was not to be trusted, although I wasn't sure if he was a good or bad guy. The lines seemed to sway towards corrupt. Cody never believed simple minded Sidney Noyce could have done the murders, they had teased him for years and he had never hurt anyone, Cody knew this as truth because he was there. so who did kill the boys?

Loved this story and will be looking forward to further books by this author.
OMG the ending I never saw it coming. A real thriller here guys

Nancy McFarlane says

I Know You Know is framed through a series of true crime podcasts produced by Cody Swift, whose two best friends were murdered 20 years earlier, when they were just 10 years old. Cody is convinced the man who was convicted of their murders was not guilty and hopes that time will uncover facts that weren't discovered then. Coincidentally, as the podcast starts the bones of a long missing man are discovered near the spot that the boys' murder took place. Detective Fletcher, one of the two detectives who discovered the murdered boys 20 years earlier is given the new case.

The story switches back and forth from 20 years ago to present and is told mainly from the view point of Cody, Detective Fletcher, and Jessica Paige, the mother of one of the murdered boys.

Cody is vigilant in trying to find the truth, even when being threatened and told to stop. Or, does he have an ulterior motive? Jess, who has a new life with a husband and 16 yo daughter, has not told her daughter about the son she had when only 16. She has vowed to be a real mother to Erica and is riddled with guilt because of how neglectful she was as a very young mother. Or, is she riddled with guilt because she actually had something to do with harming her son? Fletcher has always been overly ambitious and has ignored procedure to accomplish what he thought was justice. But, was he a good guy who just wanted to catch the bad guy or was he corrupt?

Gilly MacMillan gives us a thrilling saga that spans 20 years, a saga you are immediately pulled into. Switching back and forth from the past to the present lets you really get to know the characters and why they developed as they did. You will go from loving them to hating them and back again until you finally find out their true character and what really happened 20 years ago.
