

All That Is Mine I Carry With Me

by William Landay

Author Bio: (from Fantastic Fiction & Authors Website)

William Landay was born and raised in Boston, where he now lives with his wife and two sons. A graduate of Yale University and Boston College Law School, he served for six years as an assistant district attorney before turning to writing.



Characters:

- **Philip Solomon** – Book 1's narrator. Writer. Investigating Jane Larkin's disappearance. Jeff's friend and former classmate.
- **Alex Larkin** – Jane and Dan's oldest child. Athletic. Partner in a prestigious Boston law firm.
- **Dan Larkin** – Criminal defense lawyer. Husband to Jane Larkin. Father to Alex, Jeff, and Miranda. Primary suspect in Jan's disappearance. Living with Alzheimer's.
- **Jane Larkin** – Disappeared on November 12, 1975. She was 39 and very attractive. Mother to Alex, Jeff, and Miranda. Her husband is Dan.
- **Jeff Larkin** – Dan and Jane's middle child. Never got over his mother's disappearance.
- **Miranda Larkin** – Dan and James daughter and youngest child. Photographer and painter. Caring for her father who has Alzheimer's.
- **George M. Bailis** – Lawyer that Kate, Jeff, and Miranda use to sue Dan.
- **Jamie Bennett** – Sarah's daughter who becomes involved with Jeff.
- **Sarah Bennett** – Dan Larkin's secret girlfriend. Beautiful. Was a model when she was younger.
- **Detective Tom Glover** – Old School policeman in charge of the Jane Larkin investigation. Refuses to give up. Has a birthmark on his forehead.
- **Aunt Kate** – Jane Larkin's older sister who never trusted Dan.
- **District Attorney Leary** – DA who decided not to indict Dan in Jane's disappearance.
- **Laurel Marcus** – Alex Larkin's wife

Discussion Questions:

1. Did you like the book? Why or why not?
2. Each part of the novel is told from a different character's point of view. How did that deepen the story? Did any section particularly stand out for you? If so, why?
3. Two of the main criticisms of the book are that the pacing was too slow and that the characters were too disjointed. What do you think?
4. **All That Is Mine I Carry With Me** explores a number of thought-provoking themes, including family, loyalty, grief, secrets and the fragility of relationships. Which theme resonated the most deeply with you and why?
5. In addition to being a crime novel, **All That Is Mine I Carry With Me** is also a family drama and a character study, following the Larkin family and the impact of Jane's disappearance over decades. How did these events shape the lives of Alex, Jeff and Miranda as adults? And why do you think this case stuck so deeply with Detective Glover and George Ballis, the lawyer?
6. "Suspicion does not need proof; it feeds just as well on the absence of it" (pg. 93) What do you think of that statement?
7. The author takes care to emphasize how defining a case this was in public memory, writing: "In the fall of '75, believe me, if you lived in Boston, you knew who Jane Larkin was. The local media feasted on the story, particularly in the first few weeks after her disappearance." True crime is often sensationalized and prominently featured in news headlines and the public eye. Why do you think people become so invested in cases from afar?
8. Aside from being the translation of the Latin text in Miranda's tattoo, what do you think the title of the novel means?
9. Book 2, which initially seems to be written from Jane's perspective, turns out to have been written by Miranda as a creative outlet. What did you think of that section? What does that tell us about how Miranda has been impacted by her mother's disappearance and the long unanswered uncertainty surrounding that event?
10. How did each of the characters change over the course of the novel?
11. There are many intense family scenes in **All That Is Mine I Carry With Me**. Which ones stayed with you most, and why?
12. A little more than halfway through the novel, after Jane's bones are found and the DA decides not to pursue a case against Dan, there's a tense discussion between the family. Did you side with Jane's sister, Kate, or Dan's son, Alex, and why? What would you have done in that situation?
13. There are a number of secrets revealed over the course of the narrative, including Dan's assault of Jane and Jane's suicide attempt, neither of which were discussed for a long time. Why do you think Kate and Jeff kept these secrets?

14. What message was Kate trying to convey with the Bible verse she had the priest read at Jane's burial ceremony?
15. While reading **All That Is Mine I Carry With Me**, did you believe Dan murdered Jane? Why or why not? When and how did you come to that conclusion? Were you thrown off by the red herrings?
16. How did you feel at the end of the novel? What message(s) did you take away from reading it?
17. **All That Is Mine I Carry With Me** was written by William Landay. Will you read anything else by the author?

References:

- Fantastic Fiction – <https://www.fantasticfiction.com/l/william-landay/>
- GoodReads – <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/61058004-all-that-is-mine-i-carry-with-me>
- Novelist – <https://web-p-ebcohost-com.ezproxy.clevnet.org/novp/detail?vid=2&sid=451c182a-9ece-4f5c-9dbd-ca0d3f69e0e8%40redis&bdata=JnNpdGU9bm92cC1saXZl#AN=11106689&db=neh>
- Random House – <https://www.randomhousebooks.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/All-That-Is-Mine-I-Carry-With-Me-William-Landay-Book-Club-Kit.pdf>
- Reading Group Guides – <https://www.readinggroupguides.com/reviews/all-that-is-mine-i-carry-with-me/>

William Landay's Books

Novels

- Mission Flats (2003)
- The Strangler (2007)
- Defending Jacob (2012)
- All That Is Mine I Carry With Me (2023)

If you liked All That Is Mine I Carry With Me, try...

- Apples Never Fall – Liane Moriarty
 - Book of Cold Cases – Simone St. James
 - Lie To Me – JT Ellison
 - No One Will Miss Her – Kat Rosenfield
 - The Younger Wife – Sally Hepworth
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