

I See You Discussion Questions

by Clare Mackintosh

Author Bio: (from Fantastic Fiction & website)

Clare Mackintosh spent twelve years in the UK police force, including time on CID, and as a public order commander. She left the police in 2011 to work as a freelance journalist and social media consultant, and now writes full time.



Clare is the founder of Chipping Norton Literary Festival, and lives in the Cotswolds, UK, with her husband and their three children.

Characters:

- **Zoe Walker** – Middle-aged bookkeeper for Hallow & Reed, a real estate office. Has 2 adult children – Justin and Katie. Ex-husband is Matt. Live-in boyfriend is Simon. Cat is Biscuit.
- **Kelley Swift** – (30) – Police Officer (PC). Career in a standstill due to her assaulting a suspect in custody 4 years previously. Has a twin sister, Lexi.
- **DCI Digby** – DCI in charge of the Murder Investigation Team (MIT). Near retirement. Worked with Kelly in the Sexual Offenses Unit 4 years earlier.
- **Luke (Harris) Friedland** – Man who “caught” Zoe at train station when she fell.
- **Issac Gunn** – (30s) – The director for *The 12th Night*, the play Katie is starring in. Handsome.
- **Graham Hallow** – Zoe’s boss. Micromanager. Partner in Zoe’s real estate office.
- **Lucinda** – Civilian analyst for the MIT squad.
- **Matt** – Zoe’s ex-husband. Drives a taxi. Is still in love with Zoe. Marriage broke up because he cheated.
- **Megan** – Street busker who plays guitar on Zoe’s way home. Zoe gives her change every day on the way to and from work.
- **Nick Rampello** – Detective Inspector (DI) in charge of murder investigation. (Runs the Murder Investigation Team.)
- **Andrew Robinson** – Police IT guy. Working for the MIT squad.
- **Lexi Swift** – Kelly’s twin sister. History teacher. Husband – Stuart. Has 2 toddler children – Alfie and Fergus. Lexi was assaulted as a freshman in college.
- **Cathy Tanning** – (37) – Woman on metro who had her keys stolen from her purse. Her picture is found in an advert for findtheone.com.
- **Simon Thornton** – (30s) – Zoe’s live-in boyfriend. Older than Zoe. Works at a newspaper – The Telegraph.

- **Justin Walker** – (22) – Zoe’s son. Works at one of Melissa West’s cafes. Good with computers. Dyslexic. Was in trouble for shoplifting when he was 14.
- **Katie Walker** – (19) – Zoe’s daughter. Wants to be an actor. Is working as a waitress to make ends meet. Starring in Gunn’s *The 12th Night* theater production.
- **Melissa West** – Zoe’s next-door neighbor. Owns 2+ cafes. Justin works for her at one of the cafes. Husband, Neil, is in IT. Mixed marriage. No children. Well-off financially.

Discussion Questions:

1. Did you like the book? Why or why not?
2. This story is told from both Zoe Walker and Katie Swift’s points of view. Did it work? Did you like seeing the case through different points of view? Why or why not?
3. Do you commute to work on a daily basis? If so, how much variation is there in your route? If you’re not a commuter, what other routines do you follow? Do you ever see the same people in the same place on a regular basis? How much do you notice about the people around you?
4. Will *I See You* cause you to change your own routines? What advice would you give to someone who has a daily commute?
5. CCTV is common in many areas of the UK. How do you feel about surveillance cameras? Do you feel safer knowing cameras are there? Do you object to being watched? Why or why not?
6. Discuss the relationship Zoe Walker has with her family: her ex-husband, her partner, and her two children. Does Zoe give her children the right amount of independence? What parenting advice would you give her? How do you reconcile protecting your children with giving them independence?
7. What do you think about Zoe’s belief about giving Megan, the busker, a little bit twice a day is better than a large amount once because it “gives a little kindness everyday”?
8. When Zoe first realized she was being followed, did you think she was being stalked by someone she knew or someone she didn’t know?
9. How nervous would you be if you found out your picture was on a sex/chat website like FindTheOne.com?
10. What about Kelly Swift? She’s on a lousy assignment - a punishment period for having attacked a rapist. How would you describe Kelly? Author Clare Mackintosh was a policewoman in a former life; how much do you think her previous job influenced her portrayal of Kelly?
11. Discuss Kelly’s approach to victim support. Do you think she was justified in her way of dealing with Lexi’s sexual assault? How do you think her being a twin affected her reaction to her sister’s trauma?

12. Did you guess the main villain's identity before the end? If so, how?
13. The mastermind behind the website in *I See You* used people's predilection for routine against them. Did *I See You* change the way you view the world around you?
14. What about the epilogue? How does it affect your reading of the book? What feeling does it leave you with?
15. In an interview, the author said, "The ending of *I See You* will be frustrating for some people, but it felt like the right way to finish the story. Life isn't a series of neatly tied-up episodes; it's a messy, continuing story that often throws a curveball when we least expect it." What do you think of that statement? Did you like or dislike the way the story ended?
16. How do you think the person behind the website rationalized their actions?
17. Do you think the world is filled with the kind of evil that this and the many other recent thrillers would have us believe? Think of recent books, their victims, and sociopathic villains. Is the world this dangerous?
18. Clare Mackintosh has written other books. Will you read them?

References:

- Fantastic Fiction – <https://www.fantasticfiction.com/m/clare-mackintosh/>
- Lit Lovers -- <https://www.litlovers.com/reading-guides/fiction/10929-i-see-you-macintosh?start=3>
- Clare Mackintosh's website - <https://uk.claremackintosh.com/>
- Novelist – <https://web-p-ebSCOhost-com.ezproxy.clevnet.org/novp/detail?vid=2&sid=77a70dad-2812-4a07-a6a6-880d409df6f4%40redis&bdata=JnNpdGU9bm92cC1saXZI#UI=10545246&db=neh>

Clare Mackintosh's Books

Series

DC Morgan

1. The Last Party (2022)

Stand Alone Novels

- I Let You Go (2014)
- I See You (2016)
- Let Me Lie (2018)
- After the End (2019)
- The Understudy (2019) (with Holly Brown, Sophie Hannah, and BA Paris)
 - Hostage (2021)

If you liked I See You, try...

- Someone is Watching – Joy Fielding
- The Book of You – Claire Kendal
- I Am No One – Patrick Flanery
- Killing Kate – Alex Lake
- Behind Her Eyes – Sarah Pinborough

CCTV – CCTV stands for closed-circuit television.

- <https://www.facilitiesnet.com/security/topic/What-Does-CCTV-Stand-For--19068>
- <https://www.cctv.co.uk/how-many-cctv-cameras-are-there-in-london/>

London is often called the CCTV capital of the world, and for good reason. The city is home to hundreds of thousands of CCTV cameras, and the average Londoner is caught on CCTV 300 times a day.

London is one of the most heavily monitored cities in the world. London's CCTV is a mixture of government surveillance, business security, and private home CCTV systems owned by individuals.

Transport for London uses a total of 15,516 cameras across the tube network, and the Metropolitan Police has a further 110. The City of London Council is known to operate 651 cameras, and a BBC survey of 2009 found that there were 7,431 surveillance cameras in use across all the local councils in Greater London.

This gives a total of 23,708 cameras – a ridiculously low number if you've ever walked around central London. But, these official figures only show us a small part of the picture.

The vast majority of London's CCTV cameras are not government-controlled but are instead owned and operated by private individuals and businesses.

Research by CCTV.co.uk concludes that in London there is now 1 CCTV Camera for every 13 people, meaning there are now 691,000 CCTV Cameras in London (2020/21)

Map of the London Underground - <https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20150720-the-london-underground-map-the-design-that-shaped-a-city>

