

And Then I Found You

by Patti Callahan Henry



About the Book

Katie Vaughan is no stranger to tough choices.

She's made them before. Now it's time to do it again.

Kate has a secret, something tucked away in her past. And she's getting on with her life. Her business is thriving. She has a strong relationship with her family, and a devoted boyfriend whom she wants to love with all her heart. If Kate had ever made a list, Rowan would fill the imagined boxes of a perfect mate. She wants the facts to move from her head toward her heart and settle in with deep love, something past admiration and comfort. But when Kate discovers the small velvet box hidden in Rowan's drawer, she panics.

It always happens this way. Just when Kate thinks she can love, just when she believes she can conquer the fear, she's filled with dread. And she wants more than anything to make this feeling go away. But how?

When the mistakes have been made and the running is over, it's time to face the truth. Kate knows this. She understands that a woman can never undo what can never be undone. Yet, for the first time in her life she also knows that she won't fully love until she confronts those from her past. It's time to act.

Can she do it? Can she travel to the place where it all began, to the one who shares her secret? Can the lost ever become found?

AND THEN I FOUND YOU gives new life to the phrase "inspired by a true story." By travelling back to a painful time in her own family's history, the author explores the limits of courage, and the price of a selfless act.

Discussion Guide

1. This novel was inspired by a true story. Is there an event in your life that you think would make a good novel?
2. Katie is so devoted to her work with damaged girls that she postpones her life together with Jack. Do you think that Jack should have been more patient in waiting for her? Or was Katie taking their relationship for granted?
3. Katie hears a lot of "terrible stories" from the girls at The Winsome Wilderness. How did these experiences contribute to her decision to place Luna for adoption?
4. Kate seems to take great comfort in rituals. Have these rituals served a positive purpose in her life? or have they held her back?
5. Do you think Kate and Rowan's relationship would have had a different outcome if she had been able to confide in him about her past?
6. Lida is much more than an employee to Kate, who seems to turn a blind eye to the younger woman's shortcomings. What do you think they offer each other?
7. When he was married, Jack didn't tell his wife about Luna. Do you think that this compromised their marriage?
8. Kate mentions that she "wants to love" Rowan. Can Kate? or anyone make themselves love someone? Can you want to love enough to love?
9. Jack says in one of his letters, "of all of the awful parts of missing their daughter, the non-knowing was the absolute worse." Why did Jack feel this way? Do you agree?
10. In the opening of the novel we see that March 20th is a significant date for Katie Vaughn, and it remains so throughout the remainder of the novel. Is there a date that is deeply significant to you and if so, why?
11. Thirteen-year-old Emily wonders about her "birth parents." Do you know any adopted children and if so, do they often wonder about their birth parents?
12. Emily is deeply loved and has a close family, but still she struggled with feeling wanted. Why do you think this is?
13. Emily wants to know "her story"? don't we all? Did hearing her story directly from Jack and Kate help Emily? Do you think that hearing "your story" helps you understand your life? Do you believe that telling "your story" helps others?
14. At one point in the novel, Emily believes that it would be nicer to live with Katie and Jack. Can you see why she would believe this?

15. Kate has a very close family and they often talk about Luna, and yet her birth and adoption are also a tightly held secret. Do you believe families can hold these kinds of secrets? How do they affect the family and those who are close to them?

Author Bio

Patti Callahan Henry is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of several novels, including *SURVIVING SAVANNAH* and *BECOMING MRS. LEWIS*. She is the recipient of the Christy Award, the Harper Lee Award for Alabama's Distinguished Writer of the Year Award, and the Alabama Library Association Book of the Year. She is the cohost and cocreator of the popular weekly online live web show and podcast "Friends and Fiction." She lives in Alabama and South Carolina with her family.

Critical Praise

"And Then I Found You is as authentic as it is riveting and ultimately unforgettable. Your past will find you and it can change your life. I think it's the most soulful book she's ever written."

? Dorothea Benton Frank, author of *PORCH LIGHTS*

"In *And Then I Found You* Patti Callahan Henry explores the labyrinth of a woman's heart--mother, daughter, sister, friend, lover. Moving and beautifully written."

? Mary Alice Monroe, author of *BEACH HOUSE MEMORIES*

"Patti Callahan Henry has a singular gift---she can connect her characters so deeply to the natural world. She leads Katie Vaughn by moonlight, with a touch as light and deft as a white feather, unafraid to plunge her into the deepest sorrows so that she can emerge changed and beautiful. You can't help but root for Katie. *And Then I Found You* is Henry at her best, brimming with heart and compassionate wisdom."

? Joshilyn Jackson, *New York Times* bestselling author of *A GROWN UP KIND OF PRETTY*

"Patti Callahan Henry asks the big, equivocal questions about what it means to be a mother, a child, a family, and the answers she finds in *And Then I Found You* will surprise you, provoke you, and rearrange your heart." --Jacquelyn Mitchard, author of *THE DEEP END OF THE OCEAN* and *WHAT WE SAW AT NIGHT*

"A touching story"

? Kirkus

"Henry writes this story with eloquence and beauty. This is her most personal and her most powerful story to date."

? Huffington Post

"A delicious read featuring all of the elements of love, loss and familial tension."

? The Atlantan

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