

Never Tell A Secret by Miranda Rijks – Discussion Questions

****There are spoilers in the following questions****

1. Would you ever use an AI therapist or chatbot to talk through your problems? Did reading this book change your answer?

2. Emma's family is coming apart at the seams when the story opens. Whose struggles did you feel most sympathetic towards – Emma's, Hayden's, Willow's or Fred's?

3. What was your first impression of Marcel? Did he set off any red flags for you, or did you see him as the generous family friend he appeared to be?

4. Why do you think each member of the family found it easier to confide in ClarityU than in one another?

5. At first, ClarityU really does seem to help. Did you understand why the family became so dependent on it? Have you ever found yourself hooked on an app?

6. Marcel can see every confession, every fear and every secret the family shares. How would you feel if you discovered someone had read your most private thoughts?

7. How did Marcel's grief as a widower shape the way you viewed him? Did it make him more sympathetic or more frightening?

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8. What emotions did this book evoke?

9. Willow is unravelling after a breakup ,and Fred is isolated and unhappy. Did you think Emma and Hayden noticed what was happening to their children quickly enough? What would you have done differently?

10. Willow is twenty-one. Do parents have a right to know their adult children's secrets? How much should a family share with each other?

11. How did you think the state of Emma and Hayden's marriage made the family more vulnerable to Marcel?

12. When did you start to suspect that Marcel was not the friend he pretended to be? Was Emma right to trust her instincts and start investigating?

13. How far would you go to protect your family? Did you agree with the choices Emma made once she realised what was happening?

14. Were you surprised by the twists? Which revelation shocked you the most?

15. Did you find yourself judging any of the characters for the choices they made? Who and why?

16. Can grief or personal pain ever explain, or even excuse, harming other people? How did this shape your view of Marcel?

17. Should an AI therapist be allowed to offer mental health support without a human professional involved? If it causes harm, who should be held responsible?

18. Having read the book, will you think twice about what you share on your phone or online?

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