

DURHAM COUNTY LIBRARY

Discussion Guide

Anybody's Daughter
by
Pamela Samuels Young
(Goldman House Publishing: California, 2013)

Author Bio:

PAMELA SAMUELS YOUNG

When attorney and author Pamela Samuels Young isn't practicing law, you can usually find her penning her next legal thriller. Described by one reviewer as "John Grisham with a sister's twist," Pamela is an award-winning author of six legal thrillers.

Pamela has always abided by the philosophy that you create the change you want to see. Fed up with never seeing women or people of color depicted as savvy, hot shot attorneys in the legal thrillers she read, the Compton native decided to create her own characters. Despite the demands of a busy legal career, Pamela accomplished her ambitious goal by getting up at four in the morning to write before work, dedicating her weekends to writing and even spending her vacation time glued to her laptop for ten or more hours a day. In the process, she discovered her passion.

Her debut novel, *Every Reasonable Doubt* (2006), won the Black Expressions Book Club's Fiction Writing Contest, received an honorable mention in the SEAK Legal Fiction Writing Competition and was a finalist for USA Book News' Best Books of 2006 awards in the mystery, suspense and thriller category. Her second novel, *In Firm Pursuit* (2007), was honored by *Romantic Times* magazine as a finalist for Best AfricanAmerican Novel of 2007. *Murder on the Down Low* (2008), Pamela's third release, was an "Editor's Pick" by *Black Expressions* magazine and a finalist for the 2009 AfricanAmerican Literary Awards in the fiction category. The Black Caucus of the American Library Association honored Pamela's next novel, *Buying Time* (2009), with its 2010 Fiction Award, calling the book "a captivating, suspenseful thriller." *Attorney-Client Privilege* (2012), and *Anybody's Daughter* (2013) are Pamela's most recent novels.

She has also penned the short stories *Easy Money*, featured in the anthology *Scoundrels: Tales of Greed, Murder and Financial Crimes* (2012) and *Setup*, selected for the *Sisters in Crime* anthology, *LANdmarked for Murder* (2006).

Pamela has achieved a successful writing career while working as Managing Counsel for Labor and Employment Law for a major corporation in Southern California, specializing in employment law and social media law. Prior to that, she served as

Employment Law Counsel for Raytheon Company and spent several years as an associate with the law firm of O'Melveny & Myers, LLP, in Los Angeles. A former journalist, Pamela began her broadcasting career with WXYZ-TV in Detroit and later worked as a news writer and associate producer for KCBS-TV in Los Angeles.

A graduate of UC Berkeley's School of Law, Pamela has a bachelor's degree in journalism from USC and a master's degree in broadcasting from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. She formerly served on the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles chapter of Mystery Writers of America and is a diehard member of Sisters in Crime-L.A., an organization dedicated to the advancement of women mystery writers. She lives in Southern California and attends Hope in Christ Community Church.

Pamela is a frequent speaker on the topics of fiction writing, discrimination law and pursuing your passion. To read an excerpt of Pamela's books or to schedule her for a book club meeting or special engagement, visit her website at www.pamelasamuelsyoung.com.

[From author's web site]

Summary:

Is Anybody's Daughter Ever Safe?

Based on the real-life horrors faced by thousands of girls, award-winning author Pamela Samuels Young takes readers deep inside the disturbing world of child sex trafficking in a fast-paced thriller that educates as much as it entertains.

Thirteen-year-old Brianna Walker is ecstatic. She's about to sneak off to meet her first real boyfriend—a boyfriend she met on Facebook. But Brianna is in for a horrifying surprise because her boyfriend doesn't exist. Instead, Brianna unwittingly becomes the captive of a ring of drug dealers- turned-human traffickers who prey on lonely girls from dysfunctional homes. But they've made a big mistake in targeting Brianna because she doesn't meet either of those criteria.

Brianna's Uncle Dre, a man with his own criminal past, is determined to find the niece who is more like a daughter to him. Rather than sit back and rely on police to bring Brianna home, Dre scours the dark corners of Los Angeles looking for her. He is stunned to learn that the trafficking of children isn't just happening in other countries. It's occurring at epidemic levels right in his own backyard.

Dre is not alone in his desperate search. Loretha Johnson knows this world well. A social worker who previously lived "the life," Loretha now dedicates her time to saving as many young girls as she can find. She turns out to be an invaluable resource for Dre, who ultimately gets a lead on The Shepherd, a mastermind in the trafficking world whose

every move is fueled by ego and greed. Dre vows to bring his reign of terror to an end.

While Brianna makes a futile effort to thwart her captors, Dre is getting closer and closer to finding her. The woman he loves, attorney Angela Evans, knows the dangers faced by sexually exploited children because she represents them in juvenile court. Angela lends her moral support and, eventually, an important clue to Brianna's whereabouts.

As he races against the clock, Dre ultimately comes up with a daring plan—one that puts many lives in danger, including his own. But will he find Brianna before it's too late?

(From the publisher)

Questions:

1. Do you approve of the tactics Dre used to find Brianna? What would you have done?
2. Despite Dre's criminal past, do you think he's a good match for Angela?
3. Do you think enough is being done to stop all forms of human trafficking? If not, what more should be done?
4. Why do you think greater focus isn't placed on the clients who drive the demand for sex trafficking?
5. Do you believe under-aged girls should be arrested for soliciting prostitution?
6. What can be done to help young girls develop the level of self-esteem that might keep them from being such easy prey for sex traffickers?
7. What steps can parents take to protect their children from predators on the Internet?
8. What do you think the penalties should be for individuals involved in sex trafficking?
9. Why do you think sex trafficking, particularly minor sex trafficking, has reached epidemic levels?
10. What are some of the things you liked/disliked about *Anybody's Daughter*?

[From: The Publisher]