

The background of the entire image is a photograph of a person walking away from the camera on a long, blue-lit airport walkway. The walkway has a curved, vaulted ceiling and is flanked by glass panels. The person is silhouetted against the bright light at the end of the walkway. The overall color scheme is dominated by deep blues and blacks, with the yellow text providing a strong contrast.

BOOK CLUB KIT

I  
SEE  
YOU

A NOVEL

CLARE MACKINTOSH

INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *I LET YOU GO*



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 Do you commute to work on a daily basis and follow the same routine when you do so? How much variation is there in your commute? If you take the train, do you always sit in the same car? How much do you notice about the people around you? Do you ever notice the same people in the same places? If you don't commute, do you follow set routines?
- 2 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?
- 3 Once you realized it was someone she knew, did you develop a favorite suspect as you read the book? Or did you suspect different people? Who, and why?
- 4 Do you think you can ever really know, or trust, another human being? How about your friends? Your own family members?
- 5 Discuss Kelly's approach to victim support. Do you think she was justified in her way of dealing with Lexi's sexual assault? Do you think her being a twin affected her reaction to her sister's trauma?
- 6 *I See You* explores themes of parenting. How do you balance protecting your children with giving them their independence?
- 7 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?
- 8 How do you think the person behind the website rationalized their actions?
- 9 The ending of *I See You* reveals the true culprit. Did you suspect this person at all? How do you feel about this ending?

A CONVERSATION WITH  
**CLARE MACKINTOSH**  
AUTHOR OF *I SEE YOU*



photo: Charlie Hopkinson

**Your background is interesting—you went from police detective to journalist to novelist. What inspired your career transitions and how do you think the three relate?**

I spent 12 years in the police and loved every minute of it, but it became increasingly hard to balance a busy career with life as a mother of three young children. I took a career break and reinvented myself as a freelance feature writer, and, at the same time, I wrote *I Let You Go*. I signed a two-book publishing deal the month before I was due back at work, so I handed in my notice and never went back. The thread that links all three types of work is storytelling: as a detective I told victims' stories on their behalf and collected witnesses' stories to support allegations of crime. My job was to pull together all the threads of a story and present it to a court in such a way that they could decide on a verdict. In that way, it wasn't dissimilar to the stories I now present to readers.

**Given your experience in the police force, do you find it necessary to do additional research before writing? If so, what kind of research do you do?**

I didn't need to do much research for *I Let You Go*, although I did check some procedure with a couple of former colleagues. Most of the "research" I did was more about trying to capture experiences; I even walked fully clothed into a freezing ocean in November in order to write a particular scene better! For *I See You* I spent a lot of time on the London Underground, watching people as they went about their business. I also had help from a police officer specializing in cybercrime; he was so helpful I named a character after him.

**Your debut novel *I Let You Go* was the UK's top-selling crime fiction debut in 2015. Why do you think so many readers have embraced the book?**

I've been overwhelmed by the response to my debut novel, and I've loved hearing from so many book groups and readers around the UK and beyond. It seems to appeal to fans of both procedural crime and mystery, as well as of literary thrillers and psychological suspense, so I guess I'm covering all bases!

**Tell us about your literary influences. Who are your favorite writers and what kind of books do you love to read?**

I read widely, across all genres. Right now I'm reading Alex Marwood's *The Darkest Secret*, an exceptional thriller out this year. I love Sophie Hannah's books, and I've been a fan of Jodi Picoult for many years—I love how she explores such big issues in her writing.

# HOW EASY WOULD IT BE FOR SOMEONE TO FOLLOW YOU ON YOUR DAILY COMMUTE?

**Follow the directions and answer the questions to find out!**

- Have each member of the book club print out a map or pull one up online. This map can be of the local public transit system or of any large, famous transit system, some of which can be found at the following websites:

LONDON UNDERGROUND

[metromaplondon.com/metro\\_map\\_london.pdf](http://metromaplondon.com/metro_map_london.pdf)

NEW YORK CITY SUBWAY

[mta.info/nyc/subwaymap.pdf](http://mta.info/nyc/subwaymap.pdf)

PARIS METRO

[parisbytrain.com/paris-metro-maps](http://parisbytrain.com/paris-metro-maps)

Pick a starting point on the map (point A) and a destination (point B).

Which route would you take to get from point A to point B?

Compare your route with those chosen by other members of the book club.

Try to determine how many different routes one could take to get from point A to point B. Which is the fastest? Which is the most convoluted?

How easy would it be to change this commute to avoid being followed?

Pick a new starting and ending point, and try again!

## Key to symbols

○ Interchange stations

⊕ Step-free access from street to train

⊕ Step-free access from street to platform

⊕ National Rail

✈ Airport

⊕ Riverboat services

⊕ Victoria Coach Station

⊕ Penguin Random House

⊕ Penguin Random House

9 Station in Zone 9  
8 Station in Zone 8  
7 Station in Zone 7  
6 Station in both zones  
5 Station in Zone 6  
4 Station in Zone 5  
3 Station in both zones  
2 Station in Zone 3  
1 Station in both zones  
1 Station in Zone 1