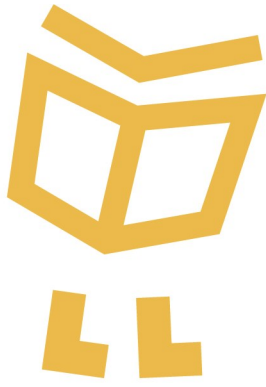


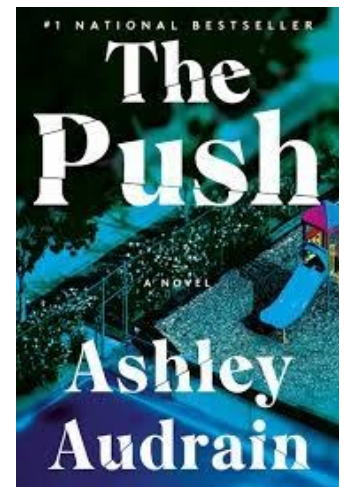
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The Push Ashley Audrain

Discussion Questions

1. In the book, Blythe struggles with feelings of inadequacy as she fails to live up to the perfect ideal of motherhood. How do societal pressures contribute to those feelings? How do you think society views motherhood -- what it should look like, how it should feel, even who should be a mother --- and what kind of burden does that place on women?
2. Does being a “good mother” always require selflessness and unconditional love? How much of ourselves do we owe our children?
3. What are your thoughts about Blythe as a mother? Did she fail Violet? Sam? What could or should she have done differently?
4. The theory of inherited trauma --- that we carry the scars of past generations --- is explored through Blythe’s mother and grandmother, who struggled in similar ways to her. How much do you think we carry forward from the experiences of the generation before us? Is it possible to break the cycle completely?
5. When Blythe and Fox speak for the last time, Fox tells Blythe, “[Violet] wasn’t always easy. But she deserved more from you. And you deserved more from me.” What do you think Fox lacked as a husband?
6. Do you think Fox ever lied about not believing Blythe in order to protect Violet? If so, do you think trying to protect his daughter was a good enough reason to doubt his wife?
7. Were you surprised by the nature of Blythe and Gemma’s relationship? Even though it was based on a lie, do you think there was real friendship and understanding there?
8. Do you think Gemma was always being truthful with Blythe about her feelings for Violet?



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About the Author

Ashley Audrain's debut novel *The Push* was a New York Times, Sunday Times and #1 international bestseller, and a Good Morning America book club pick. It has sold in 40 territories, and a limited television series is currently in development. She previously worked as the publicity director of Penguin Books Canada, and prior to that, worked in public relations. She lives in Toronto, where she and her partner are raising their two young children. She is working on her second novel.

Via Penguin Random House (<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/authors/2206751/ashley-audrain>)

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