

WHY WE LOVE  
*Never Saw Me Coming*

Dear Reader,

In our latest hoopla Book Club Spotlight Selection *Never Saw Me Coming*, you are invited to dive into an unassuming world of smoke and mirrors where cold-blooded protagonist Chloe Sevre embarks on a warpath to revenge. Embodying the collegiate-thriller elements of the cult-classic movie *Scream*, this fast-paced psychological thriller is sure to have you on the edge of your seat this fall.

At a fictional university campus in Washington, DC, Chloe and seven other students are enrolled in a study for clinically diagnosed psychopaths. Led by an assiduous professor, the program offers study participants a free ride to the acclaimed university, with the aim to understand psychopathy. Throughout the program, readers will peer through the lens of various characters in the novel. Each program member has a different goal; however, none is more sinister than Chloe's.

She is calculated, manipulative, and capable of mirroring emotions from those around her. In fact, her uncanny ability to manipulate and charm unsuspecting people leads her on a perilous hunt to rewrite her past. During her journey, Chloe's plans are abruptly interrupted when the tables are turned and an unknown person begins to kill off members of the program. Chloe and her newfound "friends" must quickly find the killer before they are next.

Vera Kurian expertly balances dark humor and the reality of living with psychopathy. Through different points of view, it is clear that, in this novel, psychopathy does not hold a negative bias. Rather, it is cleverly depicted as a series of intriguing traits that each character has. This makes Chloe and other psychopaths around her likable characters. It is very easy to find yourself rooting for Chloe although her objective is to seek a terrible revenge.

As Kurian deftly highlights themes of social disparity in mental health, economic issues surrounding race, and the sociological issues that plague campus culture today, Chloe is faced with surprisingly relatable situations. While most people generally move through life upholding social norms that are imposed by society, the psychological point of view of a psychopath gives us a glimpse of how the lack of objective personality from the protagonists is in truth an introspective look on how many similarities there are between those with mental-health issues and those without. Where Chloe might act on impulse, we choose not to in the name of morality. In a refreshing way, this levels the playing field and allows readers to understand the mind of a psychopath differently than the stigmatized reality that we see in the world today.



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When finishing this book, I urge you to ask yourselves these questions: Have you ever wondered if you have crossed paths with a psychopath? And if you have, would you be able to tell? How would you interact with one given the depictions in *Never Saw Me Coming*?

If you love a good fast-paced thriller, *Never Saw Me Coming* is a must read. Despite the dark humor, its gripping and sinister twists pair well with Kurian's subtle nods to the issues that surround mental health today. We hope you enjoy this latest book club pick as much as we have! Let us know what you think on social @hoopladigital and #hooplabookclub.

Happy reading!

Ruth Hervies, hoopla

### Selected Praise for *Never Saw Me Coming*

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"Fun, entertaining, and hard to put down, a twisty whodunit with a satisfying conclusion." – *New York Journal of Books*

"Fresh, fast-paced and fiendishly clever! If you love watching true crime and wonder about the psychopaths among us, this is the book for you! *Never Saw Me Coming* will have you never sleeping again." – *Lisa Gardner, #1 New York Times bestselling author*

"A completely original, clever whodunit from a talented new arrival to the world of psychological suspense. Vera Kurian is one to watch!" – *Mary Kubica, New York Times bestselling author*

"Witty, acerbic and utterly compulsive." – *Kia Abdullah, author of Take It Back*

"Vera Kurian has put together a powerful puzzle of a murder mystery, as impossible to solve as it is to put down. What starts as a delicious thriller becomes a fascinating investigation of amorality, vengeance, and redemption. A powder keg of a debut." – *Robin Wasserman, bestselling author*

"Welcome to your new problematic fave. I fell in love with self-confessed psychopath Chloe on page one, and even as she plotted murder, found myself cheering her on." – *Erin Kelly, bestselling author*

"Utterly gripping." — *The Telegraph*

"With a satisfying (if bloodthirsty) quest for vengeance and a twisty mystery to solve, *Never Saw Me Coming* will tempt readers into staying up all night to get answers." — *BookPage*