



## Everything I Never Told You: A Novel (Alex Awards (Awards))

By Celeste Ng

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***New York Times* Bestseller** • ***A New York Times Book Review* Editor's Choice**  
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• *Mashable* • *Cleveland Plain Dealer*

“Lydia is dead. But they don’t know this yet.” So begins this exquisite novel about a Chinese American family living in 1970s small-town Ohio. Lydia is the favorite child of Marilyn and James Lee, and her parents are determined that she will fulfill the dreams they were unable to pursue. But when Lydia’s body is found in the local lake, the delicate balancing act that has been keeping the Lee family together is destroyed, tumbling them into chaos. A profoundly moving story of family, secrets, and longing, *Everything I Never Told You* is both a gripping page-turner and a sensitive family portrait, uncovering the ways in which mothers and daughters, fathers and sons, and husbands and wives struggle, all their lives, to understand one another.

*From the Trade Paperback edition.*

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### Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

**Selected by the Amazon Editors as the #1 Book of the Year:** *Lydia is dead*. From the first sentence of Celeste Ng's stunning debut, we know that the oldest daughter of the Chinese-American Lee family has died. What follows is a novel that explores alienation, achievement, race, gender, family, and identity--as the police must unravel what has happened to Lydia, the Lee family must uncover the sister and daughter that they hardly knew. There isn't a false note in this book, and my only concern in describing my profound admiration for *Everything I Never Told You* is that it might raise unachievable expectations in the reader. But it's that good. Achingly, precisely, and sensitively written. --Chris Schlupe

From [Booklist](#)

**\*Starred Review\*** A teenage girl goes missing and is later found to have drowned in a nearby lake, and suddenly a once tight-knit family unravels in unexpected ways. As the daughter of a college professor and his stay-at-home wife in a small Ohio town in the 1970s, Lydia Lee is already unwittingly part of the greater societal changes going on all around her. But Lydia suffers from pressure that has nothing to do with tuning out and turning on. Her father is an American born of first-generation Chinese immigrants, and his ethnicity, and hers, make them conspicuous in any setting. Her mother is white, and their interracial marriage raises eyebrows and some intrusive charges of miscegenation. More troubling, however, is her mother's frustration at having given up medical school for motherhood, and how she blindly and selfishly insists that Lydia follow her road not taken. The cracks in Lydia's perfect-daughter foundation grow slowly but erupt suddenly and tragically, and her death threatens to destroy her parents and deeply scar her siblings. Tantalizingly thrilling, Ng's emotionally complex debut novel captures the tension between cultures and generations with the deft touch of a seasoned writer. Ng will be one to watch. --Carol Haggas

Review

"Ng tells a story weighted by death and grief that is vital in all the essential ways; these characters betray and love blindly and are needy and accuse and forgive. They are achingly human, and Ng's writing about them is tender and merciless all at once. At the same time, her story is also about what it means to live in two worlds at the same time, to be Asian and American, an insider and an outsider, and Ng writes about all this and more with terrific nuance."

--Jesmyn Ward, National Book Award-winning author of "Salvage the Bones"

"I couldn't stop reading "Everything I Never Told You" . . . the writing is so smooth and keenly observed. The portrait of each member of the Lee family, the exploration of their mixed-race issues and the search for the killer of their sister and daughter, Lydia, pulled at my heartstrings to the very end."

--Uwem Akpan, #1 "New York Times" bestselling author of "Say You're One of Them"

"Everything I Never Told You "is a suspenseful and emotionally complex literary mystery novel, which, weaving back and forth in time, unlocks the secrets beneath the surface of family life. Celeste Ng has written a compellingly tense and moving first book."

--Dan Chaon, author of "Await Your Reply"

"Celeste Ng leavens the bridge between the disappearance of a young girl, and the personal histories that

precede it, with the larger canvas issues of race and gender, without straying from the riveting emotional territory that make up the cornerstones of family: what is given, what is withheld, and what can never be known. Lydia Lee is every parent's dream, fear, and devastation, wholly loved, just as completely lost. It is impossible to resist grieving alongside each one of these bereft, deeply realized characters, for we live their lives, and their story becomes ours from the first paragraph of this marvelous book."

--Ru Freeman, author of "On Sal Mal Lane" and "A Disobedient Girl"

"Publishers Weekly" (starred):

"This emotionally involving debut novel explores themes of belonging using the story of the death of a teenage girl, Lydia, from a mixed-race family in 1970s Ohio...Lydia is remarkably imagined, her unhappy teenage life crafted without an ounce of cliché. Ng's prose is precise and sensitive, her characters richly drawn."

"Library Journal" (starred):

"Ng constructs a mesmerizing narrative that shrinks enormous issues of race, prejudice, identity, and gender into the miniaturist dynamics of a single family. A breathtaking triumph, reminiscent of prophetic debuts by Ha Jin, Chang-rae Lee, and Chimamanda Adichie, whose first titles matured into spectacular, continuing literary legacies."

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"Kirkus Reviews"

"Ng expertly explores and exposes the Lee family's secrets... These long-hidden, quietly explosive truths, weighted by issues of race and gender, slowly bubble to the surface of Ng's sensitive, absorbing novel and reverberate long after its final page. Ng's emotionally complex debut novel sucks you in like a strong current and holds you fast until its final secrets surface."

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"The mysterious circumstances of 16-year-old Lydia Lee's tragic death have her loved ones wondering how, exactly, she spent her free time. This ghostly debut novel calls to mind "The Lovely Bones.""

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Huffington Post:

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belonging... Ng's novel grips readers from page one with the hope of unraveling the mystery behind Lydia's death--and boy does it deliver, on every front."

Chris Schluep, "Parade"

"The first chapter of Celeste Ng's debut novel is difficult--the oldest daughter in a family is dead--but what follows is a brilliantly written, surprisingly uplifting exploration of striving in the face of alienation and of the secrets we keep from others. This could be my favorite novel of the year."

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"Boston Globe"

"Wonderfully moving...Emotionally precise...A beautifully crafted study of dysfunction and grief...[This book] will resonate with anyone who has ever had a family drama."

"Entertainment Weekly"

"Both a propulsive mystery and a profound examination of a mixed-race family, Ng's explosive debut chronicles the plight of Marilyn and James Lee after their favored daughter is found dead in a lake."

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"MORE" magazine:

"With the skill of a veteran heart surgeon...Ng writes of maternal expectations, ingrained prejudice and sibling conflict in a culture that has just begun to grapple with interracial marriage and shifting gender roles."

Sara Vilkomerson, "Entertainment Weekly"

"When Lydia Lee, the favored daughter in a mixed-race family in '70s Ohio, turns up dead, the Lees' delicate ecosystem is destroyed. Her parents' marriage unravels, her brother is consumed by vengeance, and her sister--always an afterthought--hovers nervously, knowing more than anyone realizes. Ng skillfully gat

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

**Rick Maldonado:**

The book Everything I Never Told You: A Novel (Alex Awards (Awards)) make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You need to use to make your capable more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting tension or having big problem with your subject. If you can make examining a book Everything I Never Told You: A Novel (Alex Awards (Awards)) for being your habit, you can get far more advantages, like add your capable, increase your knowledge about many or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like wide open and read a guide Everything I Never Told You: A Novel (Alex Awards (Awards)). Kinds of book are several. It means that, science book or encyclopedia or other folks. So , how do you think about this guide?

**Linda Matthews:**

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**Sandra Earnhardt:**

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**David Paras:**

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