



## Reading Group Guide

### They Never Die Quietly by Daniel Annechino

1. Over the course of the first few chapters, what do we discover about Simon's value system? What is most important to him? What do you suppose it means, in his estimation, to be "among the Godly?"
2. Each woman Simon chooses as a victim is attractive, in her early 30s, and has a young child—presumably not out of wedlock. Why does Simon target these women as "sinners?" What clues does the author offer as to Simon's motivations?
3. At one point in a conversation with a victim, Simon admits "I'm not the raving maniac you think I am...sometimes I just get angry." What fuels Simon's fits of blinding rage?
4. Through a series of flashbacks, Simon explores his past in which he was molested and abused by his mother. In your opinion, is Simon a cold-blooded killer or the product of a psychotic break? Did you find yourself empathizing with him?
5. Discuss the role that Simon's work as a physical therapist plays in the book. Does his work life help or hinder him in overcoming the urges of his "other self?"
6. Although it seems like this novel is about a serial killer, the main theme is more about Sami Rizzo—the homicide detective assigned to head the investigation. She is a woman trying desperately to define herself as a competent policewoman, good mother and someone worthy of love. Why, despite her accomplishments in life, such as being the only woman to rise to the rank of detective in her precinct, is her estimation of herself so low?
7. Sami's detective instincts are peaked by Simon's strange behavior, the crucifix around his neck, and the presence of a black Ford Supercab when she visits him at the hospital for a physical therapy appointment. In your opinion, was this enough circumstantial evidence to warrant her suspicions?
8. Some reviewers have argued that Sami's decision to visit Simon's home without back-up was an uncharacteristic judgment call. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
9. In most novels, the main protagonist evolves, grows as a person, and learns some important lessons about life. How was Sami Rizzo affected by her experiences?
10. Did anything surprise you about the plot of *They Never Die Quietly*, or were you able to predict the book's twists and turns?
11. Who was your favorite character and why?