



# [Apples never fall]

By Liane Moriarty

First published in 2021

## Genre and Subject

Husband and wife

Domestic fiction

Family secrets

Suspense Fiction

## Synopsis

*The Delaney family love one another dearly—it's just that sometimes they want to murder each other . . .*

If your mother was missing, would you tell the police? Even if the most obvious suspect was your father?

This is the dilemma facing the four grown Delaney siblings.

The Delaneys are fixtures in their community. The parents, Stan and Joy, are the envy of all of their friends. They're killers on the tennis court, and off it their chemistry is palpable. But after fifty years of marriage, they've finally sold their famed tennis academy and are ready to start what should be the golden years of their lives. So why are Stan and Joy so miserable?

The four Delaney children—Amy, Logan, Troy, and Brooke—were tennis stars in their own right, yet as their father will tell you, none of them had what it took to go all the way. But that's okay, now that they're all successful grown-ups and there is the wonderful possibility of grandchildren on the horizon.

One night a stranger named Savannah knocks on Stan and Joy's door, bleeding after a fight with her boyfriend. The Delaneys are more than happy to give her the small kindness she sorely needs. If only that was all she wanted.

Later, when Joy goes missing, and Savannah is nowhere to be found, the police question the one person who remains: Stan. But for someone who claims to be innocent, he, like many spouses, seems to have a lot to hide. Two of the Delaney children think their father is innocent, two are not so sure—but as the two sides square off against each other in perhaps their biggest match ever, all of the Delaneys will start to reexamine their shared family history in a very new light.

## Author Biography

Liane Moriarty is the author of nine internationally bestselling novels: *Three Wishes*, *The Last Anniversary*, *What Alice Forgot*, *The Hypnotist's Love Story*, *The Husband's Secret*, *Big Little Lies*, *Truly Madly Guilty*, *Nine Perfect Strangers* and *Apples Never Fall*. Her books have sold more than twenty million copies worldwide, including four million in Australia and New Zealand.

Screen rights have been sold to all of Liane Moriarty's novels. A TV series is in development for *Three Wishes*, Nicole Kidman has bought the rights to *The Last Anniversary*, film rights to *What Alice Forgot* have been pre-empted by Sony TriStar with Jennifer Aniston to star as Alice, and Heather Graham will star in an adaptation of *The Hypnotist's Love Story*.

*Apples Never Fall* was a No. 1 international bestseller and the bestselling book in Australia in 2021. *Apples Never Fall* premieres as a Peacock mini-series in March 2024 and stars Annette Bening and Sam Neill.

Liane has also written a children's trilogy: *Nicola Berry and the Petrifying Problem with Princess Petronella*, *Nicola Berry and the Shocking Trouble on the Planet of Shobble* and *Nicola Berry and the Wicked War on the Planet of Whimsy*.

You can find out more about Liane's books at her website [www.lianemoriarty.com](http://www.lianemoriarty.com)

## Discussion Starters

1. There is a lot of talk about apples in the novel such as the cover and imagery. Joy was riding her bike with apples in the basket on the day she went missing. Joy's mother-in-law apple crumb recipe is prevalent throughout the novel. What do you make of all the apple mentions and such? What does the title reference?
2. Tennis is a huge presence in the Delaney's life. First, why do you think tennis became the sport of choice for Stan and Joy?
3. While tennis is pretty much life for Stan and Joy, it's a different story for the kids. How did growing up with such a focus on the sport impact the children's view on life?
4. What did you think at first happened to Joy? Did you believe Stan was guilty? Did your opinion change at all as the novel went on?
5. Why did Joy and Stan welcome Savannah, a complete stranger, into their home? Was it simply because of loneliness and wanted to be needed? On the same note, why did they let her stay?
6. The children for the most part are not impressed with Savannah and view her with suspicion. How would you react if your parents let a stranger like that stay with them?
7. We slowly learn that Savannah is not this sweet woman who simply likes to cook for strangers. But she has a ties to each member of the Delaney family and feels she was wronged by all of them. What did you think about these revelations? Should the family have felt guilty by their actions?
8. Harry Haddad is an important character despite never actually making an appearance (only in the background for context). Let's talk about Harry's presence throughout the novel and how it impacted each of the main characters. Were you surprised when it turned out Savannah was his sister?
9. Joy's secret wasn't an affair but she actually advised Harry to get a new tennis teacher. Let's talk the impact of this reveal.
10. What do you make of Stan and Joy's marriage? Do you think it's toxic and should they have separated? Or do you believe they do actually love each other?
11. Why did Joy go on the retreat with Savannah? Did she simply feel sorry for Savannah? Or just needed to get away from it all?
12. Despite all the family drama and the almost arrest of Stan, the Delaney experience a pretty happy ending for the most part. What are your thoughts on their storylines as a whole?

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