



14 up / 978-0-8234-4239-3

About the Book

Famous teen author Thistle Tate struggles to keep her biggest secret: the real identity of the author of her bestselling books.

For fans of Rainbow Rowell and E. Lockhart, this YA novel is the perfect read for teens everywhere, with a love triangle, an insider's depiction of the publishing world, and nonstop, page-turning action.

THE UNDOING OF THISTLE TATE

Katelyn Detweiler

Margaret Ferguson Books

Questions

- Readers know from the get-go that famous teen author Thistle Tate is keeping a big secret: the real identity of the author of her bestselling books. It's only a matter of when and how she will either be discovered or choose to reveal her secret on her own terms. Look at why Thistle agreed to lie. Would you have lied if a parent or loved one had asked you to? Is Thistle the victim or the perpetrator of the fraud?
- Family is important to author Katelyn Detweiler and she featured family relationships and dynamics as key elements in the story. If you were writing a story, what key elements from your own life would you make sure to include? Your own family dynamics? Friendships? Where you grew up?
- What do you think motivates the actions of the main characters in the story (Thistle Tate, her father, best friend Liam, and new love interest Oliver)? What about Marigold, the main character in Thistle's novel, *Lemonade Skies*? Do any of these characters remind you of a person you know? Yourself? If so, how?
- Thistle's new relationship with the music-obsessed Oliver threatens her friendship and blossoming love with Liam. How would you have navigated this scenario? What advice would you give Thistle?
- Which scene do you feel is the most pivotal in the book? Would you have changed it? How might the outcome of the story been altered if the scene were different?
- The author made sure to get the details of the publishing world right and as accurate as possible. What did you find to be the most interesting tidbits about this insider look? Does this make you want to pursue a career as an author? Or an agent, editor, or publisher?
- Thistle's secret is finally made public—by a blogger. Thistle can't decide whether to feel furious, ashamed, scared, or relieved. How would you have reacted if you were Thistle?
- In today's world—with all the different technology available—do you think it was inevitable that Thistle's secret would come out this way? Do you think *you* would have been able to keep such a secret? What would you have done differently? Do you think the internet is an appropriate venue to discuss sensitive opinions? Discuss what happens if doing so gets out of control. What solutions do you think are possible?
- *The Undoing of Thistle Tate* offers a story that could easily be made into a major motion picture. If you were the casting director for the film, who would you audition for the roles of Thistle, her dad, Liam, Oliver, and Thistle's agent Susan Van Buren? Is there anything you would adjust for the adaptation? Maybe expand or remove a scene or character? Set it in a different location?