

before we were yours book club questions

before we were yours book club questions serve as an essential tool for deepening readers' understanding and engagement with Lisa Wingate's poignant novel. This historical fiction work, inspired by true events, explores themes of family, resilience, and injustice. Effective book club questions encourage thoughtful discussion about the characters' experiences, the historical context, and the broader social issues the story addresses. Utilizing well-crafted prompts can enhance comprehension and foster meaningful conversation among members. This article provides an extensive guide to before we were yours book club questions, including thematic inquiries, character analysis prompts, and historical context discussions. Additionally, it offers tips on facilitating engaging book club sessions centered on this compelling novel. The following sections will cover these aspects in detail to support a rich and rewarding reading experience.

- Understanding the Historical Context
- Character Analysis Questions
- Thematic Discussion Prompts
- Plot and Setting Exploration
- Facilitating an Engaging Book Club Discussion
- Additional Resources and Tips

Understanding the Historical Context

Before delving into specific book club questions, it is crucial to grasp the historical backdrop of *Before We Were Yours*. The novel is inspired by the real-life Tennessee Children's Home Society scandal, which involved the kidnapping and illegal adoption of children. Understanding this context enriches readers' appreciation of the narrative's depth and the characters' struggles.

The Tennessee Children's Home Society Scandal

This scandal, which unfolded in the early to mid-20th century, involved the unethical practices of Georgia Tann, who operated the Tennessee Children's Home Society. Children were taken from impoverished families or outright

kidnapped and placed in adoptive homes without proper legal procedures. This dark chapter in American history highlights systemic corruption and the exploitation of vulnerable populations.

Impact on the Story's Characters

The historical context is essential for understanding the trauma and resilience portrayed in the novel. The characters' experiences are shaped by the societal attitudes and legal frameworks of the time. Discussing this background allows book club members to explore how history influences personal and collective identity within the story.

Character Analysis Questions

Exploring the characters in *Before We Were Yours* through targeted book club questions can reveal deeper insights into their motivations, growth, and relationships. These questions help readers examine the complexity of the characters and the emotional weight of their journeys.

Rill Foss and Her Siblings

Rill Foss, the central character, embodies strength and vulnerability. Book club questions might focus on her role as a caretaker, her resilience in the face of adversity, and her evolving sense of identity. Similarly, analyzing the dynamics among her siblings offers a window into familial bonds under extreme pressure.

Georgia Tann and Authority Figures

Georgia Tann represents the corrupt authority that drives much of the novel's conflict. Discussing her character allows for exploration of themes like power abuse and moral ambiguity. Questions may also consider other authority figures and their complicity or resistance within the story.

Supporting Characters and Their Roles

Secondary characters contribute significantly to the narrative's texture. Analyzing their roles can illuminate different perspectives and social attitudes, enriching the overall discussion. Questions might address how these characters influence the protagonists' decisions and outcomes.

Thematic Discussion Prompts

The themes in *Before We Were Yours* are central to understanding the novel's emotional and intellectual impact. Book club questions that focus on themes encourage members to think critically about the messages the author conveys.

Family and Identity

Questions related to family explore notions of belonging, loyalty, and the impact of separation. The theme of identity is also prevalent, as characters grapple with their pasts and seek to define themselves beyond their circumstances.

Resilience and Survival

The novel emphasizes the strength required to endure hardship. Discussion prompts can focus on how characters demonstrate resilience and the different forms survival takes, whether physical, emotional, or psychological.

Injustice and Social Critique

Before We Were Yours offers a critique of social systems that fail the vulnerable. Book club questions can address how injustice is portrayed and what the novel suggests about accountability and reform.

Plot and Setting Exploration

Analyzing the plot structure and setting deepens comprehension of the story's progression and atmosphere. These elements are vital for understanding the narrative's emotional resonance and historical accuracy.

Narrative Structure

The novel employs dual timelines, shifting between past and present. Discussing this structure can reveal how the intertwining narratives enhance thematic depth and character development.

Geographical and Temporal Settings

The settings, both in Memphis and elsewhere, ground the story in a specific historical and cultural milieu. Questions might explore how the setting influences the characters' experiences and the story's mood.

Key Plot Events

Identifying and discussing pivotal plot points helps readers track character arcs and thematic evolution. Book club prompts can guide analysis of moments that significantly impact the story's direction.

Facilitating an Engaging Book Club Discussion

Successful book club discussions require strategic facilitation, especially with complex novels like *Before We Were Yours*. Employing effective techniques ensures that conversations remain focused, inclusive, and insightful.

Preparing Thoughtful Questions

Crafting questions that encourage open-ended responses and critical thinking is essential. Mixing factual, analytical, and personal reflection questions can engage diverse perspectives within the group.

Encouraging Participation

Creating a respectful and welcoming environment promotes active participation. Facilitators should invite quieter members to share and manage dominant voices to maintain balance.

Incorporating Historical and Cultural Context

Providing background information before or during the discussion can deepen understanding. Facilitators might prepare brief summaries or prompts that connect the novel to real-world events.

Additional Resources and Tips

Supplementary materials and practical tips can enhance the book club experience when reading *Before We Were Yours*. These resources support members in preparing for and enriching discussions.

Suggested Reading and Research

Encouraging members to explore articles, documentaries, or interviews related to the Tennessee Children's Home Society scandal can provide valuable context and provoke thoughtful dialogue.

Discussion Formats

Various formats, such as roundtable discussions, small breakout groups, or themed sessions, can be employed to maintain interest and encourage diverse viewpoints.

Tracking Progress and Feedback

Collecting feedback after discussions helps facilitators refine future sessions. Keeping notes on which questions sparked the most engagement can inform subsequent meetings.

- Understand the historical background thoroughly
- Develop character-driven and thematic questions
- Focus on plot structure and setting for comprehensive analysis
- Utilize facilitation strategies to foster inclusive discussion
- Incorporate additional resources to enrich understanding

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the main themes explored in 'Before We Were Strangers' that can spark discussion in a book club?

The main themes include love and second chances, memory and regret, and the impact of choices on relationships, all of which can lead to deep conversations about personal growth and forgiveness.

How does the dual timeline narrative in 'Before We Were Strangers' affect readers' understanding of the characters?

The dual timeline provides insight into the characters' past and present, allowing readers to see how their experiences shape their decisions and emotions, which can be a great point of discussion about character development.

What emotions did 'Before We Were Strangers' evoke, and how can these be explored in a book club setting?

The book evokes emotions of nostalgia, longing, and hope. Discussing these emotions helps readers connect with the characters' journeys and reflect on their own experiences with love and loss.

In what ways does 'Before We Were Strangers' address the concept of fate versus free will?

The novel explores whether the characters' reunion is destiny or a result of their choices, prompting discussions on how much control we have over our lives and relationships.

How can book clubs analyze the role of communication and missed opportunities in the story?

The story highlights how lack of communication leads to misunderstandings and missed chances, encouraging conversations about the importance of honesty and timing in relationships.

What significance do the settings in 'Before We Were Strangers' have in shaping the narrative?

Settings like New York City provide a backdrop that reflects the characters' emotional states and life stages, allowing book clubs to discuss how environment influences storytelling.

How does the author develop the protagonists' backstories, and why is this important for book club discussions?

The detailed backstories enrich the characters, making their motivations and conflicts more relatable, which helps readers engage deeply and discuss character complexity.

What role do secondary characters play in 'Before We Were Strangers,' and how can they be analyzed in a book club?

Secondary characters add depth and contrast to the protagonists' lives, offering perspectives that enhance themes like friendship and family, which can lead to broader discussions about support systems.

How can book clubs explore the impact of time on relationships as depicted in the novel?

The novel shows how time can heal or complicate relationships, opening up discussions about patience, change, and the enduring nature of love.

What questions can book clubs ask to connect the story's themes to real-life experiences?

Questions like 'Have you ever reconnected with someone from your past?' or 'How do you think timing affects relationships?' can help members relate the book's themes to their own lives, making the discussion more personal and engaging.

Additional Resources

1. *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline

This historical novel follows two parallel narratives: one of a teenage girl in foster care in 2011 and the other of an Irish immigrant orphan on the orphan trains of the early 1900s. The story explores themes of family, identity, and resilience, much like **Before We Were Yours**. It delves deeply into the realities of orphanages and adoption in America's past, making it a compelling read for book clubs interested in social issues and historical injustices.

2. *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah

Set during World War II in Nazi-occupied France, this novel tells the story of two sisters struggling to survive and resist the war's brutal impact. It highlights the strength of women in adversity and the sacrifices made for family, paralleling the emotional intensity found in **Before We Were Yours**. The book invites discussion on themes of courage, survival, and the bonds of family.

3. *A Piece of the World* by Christina Baker Kline

Inspired by the life of the model for Andrew Wyeth's famous painting **Christina's World**, this novel explores the story of a woman's quiet resilience and her complex family dynamics. Like **Before We Were Yours**, it examines identity and the hidden stories behind family facades. The narrative encourages reflection on how personal history shapes one's sense of self.

4. *The Light Between Oceans* by M.L. Stedman

This emotionally charged novel centers on a lighthouse keeper and his wife who make a devastating decision after finding a baby adrift in a boat. It raises questions about morality, motherhood, and the consequences of choices, resonating with the ethical dilemmas in **Before We Were Yours**. The story is rich for book club discussion around love, loss, and forgiveness.

5. *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay

Blending past and present, this novel follows a journalist uncovering the tragic story of a Jewish family during the Vel' d'Hiv Roundup in World War II Paris. It explores themes of memory, trauma, and the search for truth, akin to **Before We Were Yours**. The book prompts conversations about historical memory and the impact of secrets on families.

6. *The Orphan's Tale* by Pam Jenoff

Set during World War II, this novel tells the story of two women whose lives intersect in a traveling circus, both hiding secrets related to war and loss. It explores themes of survival, friendship, and sacrifice, much like **Before We Were Yours**. The narrative offers a powerful look at the resilience of women in dark times.

7. *Lies My Mother Told Me* by Jessica Warman

This book delves into family secrets and the long-lasting effects of lies and deception on relationships. As in **Before We Were Yours**, the story exposes how hidden truths shape family dynamics and personal identity. It provides fertile ground for discussions about trust, forgiveness, and the complexity of family bonds.

8. *Before We Were Strangers* by Renée Carlino

A contemporary romance that explores the impact of past choices and lost opportunities on present relationships. Though different in setting, it shares with **Before We Were Yours** the exploration of how history—personal or familial—shapes who we become. The novel encourages discussion on themes of memory, reconciliation, and second chances.

9. *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

Narrated by Death, this novel follows a young girl living in Nazi Germany who finds solace in stealing books and sharing them with others. It addresses the power of stories and resilience in the face of hardship, resonating with the themes of survival and hope in **Before We Were Yours**. It's a profound choice for book clubs interested in historical fiction and the human spirit.

Before We Were Yours Book Club Questions

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the hospital one stormy night, Rill is left in charge—until strangers arrive in force. Wrenched from all that is familiar and thrown into a Tennessee Children's Home Society orphanage, the Foss children are assured that they will soon be returned to their parents—but they quickly realize the dark truth. At the mercy of the facility's cruel director, Rill fights to keep her sisters and brother together in a world of danger and uncertainty. Aiken, South Carolina, present day. Born into wealth and privilege, Avery Stafford seems to have it all: a successful career as a federal prosecutor, a handsome fiancé, and a lavish wedding on the horizon. But when Avery returns home to help her father weather a health crisis, a chance encounter leaves her with uncomfortable questions and compels her to take a journey through her family's long-hidden history, on a path that will ultimately lead either to devastation or to redemption. Based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals—in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country—Lisa Wingate's riveting, wrenching, and ultimately uplifting tale reminds us how, even though the paths we take can lead to many places, the heart never forgets where we belong. Publishers Weekly's #3 Longest-Running Bestseller of 2017 • Winner of the Southern Book Prize • If All Arkansas Read the Same Book Selection This edition includes a new essay by the author about shantyboat life.

before we were yours book club questions: *Study Guide for Book Clubs* Kathryn Cope, 2018-02-23 Whether you are a member of a book club, or simply reading 'Before We Were Yours' for pleasure, this clear and concise guide, written by a specialist in literature, will greatly enhance your reading experience. A comprehensive guide to Lisa Wingate's bestselling novel 'Before We Were Yours', this discussion aid includes a wealth of information and resources: useful historical context; an author biography; a plot synopsis; analyses of themes & symbolism; character analysis; twenty-two thought-provoking discussion questions; recommended further reading and even a quick quiz. For those in book clubs, this useful companion guide takes the hard work out of preparing for meetings and guarantees productive discussion. For solo readers, it encourages a deeper examination of this gripping historical novel.

before we were yours book club questions: *Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate* Daily Books, 2017 Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate Conversation Starters In Before We Were Yours, author Lisa Wingate explores the lives of families generations apart that are connected by a heartbreaking thread of history and tragedy. In 1939, Rill Foss, only twelve years old, must fend for herself and her siblings after they are taken to an orphanage. At the mercy of a cruel director and the adults in her life, Rill attempts to keep her siblings together and safe. In the present day, privileged young woman, Avery Stafford, has a chance encounter that leaves her questioning her family's history and the reality of her birth. Before We Were Yours is based on the heartbreaking true scandal of Georgia Tann, a woman whose Memphis adoption center kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families. It became a multi-week USA Today bestseller. Authors praised the novel for its heart-racing and shocking tale of struggle, hope, and redemption. A Brief Look Inside: EVERY GOOD BOOK CONTAINS A WORLD FAR DEEPER than the surface of its pages. The characters and their world come alive, and the characters and its world still live on. Conversation Starters is peppered with questions designed to bring us beneath the surface of the page and invite us into the world that lives on. These questions can be used to... Create Hours of Conversation: Promote an atmosphere of discussion for groups Foster a deeper understanding of the book Assist in the study of the book, either individually or corporately Explore unseen realms of the book as never seen before Disclaimer: This book you are about to enjoy is an independent resource meant to supplement the original book. If you have not yet read the original book, we encourage doing before purchasing this unofficial Conversation Starters.

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offered up more than 5,000 orphans tailored to the wish lists of eager parents—hiding the fact that many weren't orphans at all, but stolen sons and daughters of poor families, desperate single mothers, and women told in maternity wards that their babies had died. The publication of Lisa Wingate's novel *Before We Were Yours* brought new awareness of Tann's lucrative career in child trafficking. Adoptees who knew little about their pasts gained insight into the startling facts behind their family histories. Encouraged by their contact with Wingate and award-winning journalist Judy Christie, who documented the stories of fifteen adoptees in this book, many determined Tann survivors set out to trace their roots and find their birth families. *Before and After* includes moving and sometimes shocking accounts of the ways in which adoptees were separated from their first families. Often raised as only children, many have joyfully reunited with siblings in the final decades of their lives. Christie and Wingate tell of first meetings that are all the sweeter and more intense for time missed and of families from very different social backgrounds reaching out to embrace better-late-than-never brothers, sisters, and cousins. In a poignant culmination of art meeting life, many of the long-silent victims of the tragically corrupt system return to Memphis with the authors to reclaim their stories at a Tennessee Children's Home Society reunion . . . with extraordinary results. Advance praise for *Before and After* "In *Before and After*, authors Judy Christie and Lisa Wingate tackle the true stories behind Wingate's blockbuster *Before We Were Yours*, of the orphans who survived the Tennessee Children's Home Society. With a journalist's keen eye and a novelist's elegant prose, Christie and Wingate weave together the stories that inspired *Before We Were Yours* with the lives that were changed as a result of reading the novel. Readers will be educated, enlightened, and enraptured by this important and flawlessly executed book."—Pam Jenoff, author of *The Orphan's Tale* and *The Lost Girls of Paris*

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Benjamin Franklin, Kate Chopin, John Milton, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Edgar Wallace, Kurt Vonnegut, Laozi, Ann Ward Radcliffe, Kakuzo Okakura, H. G. Wells, W. B. Yeats, J. M. Barrie, G. K. Chesterton, Jerome K. Jerome, L. M. Montgomery, W. Somerset Maugham, E. M. Forster, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Friedrich Nietzsche, Lewis Wallace, Nikolai Leskov, Ivan Turgenev, Leo Tolstoy, Nikolai Gogol, Sir Walter Scott, George Bernard Shaw, Cao Xueqin, Emile Zola, Válmíki, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, P. B. Shelley, Elizabeth von Arnim, Dante, Pedro Calderon de la Barca, Émile Coué, D.H. Lawrence, Machiavelli, George and Weedon Grossmith, 2023-11-15 This carefully edited collection has been designed and formatted to the highest digital standards and adjusted for readability on all devices. Table of Contents: Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (Robert Louis Stevenson) A Doll's House (Henrik Ibsen) A Tale of Two Cities (Charles Dickens) Dubliners (James Joyce) A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man (James Joyce) War and Peace (Leo Tolstoy) Howards End (E. M. Forster) Le Père Goriot (Honoré de Balzac) Sense and Sensibility (Jane Austen) Anne of Green Gables Series (L. M. Montgomery) The Wind in the Willows (Kenneth Grahame) Gitanjali (Rabindranath Tagore) Diary of a Nobody (Grossmith) The Beautiful and Damned (F. Scott Fitzgerald) Moll Flanders (Daniel Defoe) 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (Jules Verne) Gulliver's Travels (Jonathan Swift) The Last of the Mohicans (James Fenimore Cooper) Peter and Wendy (J. M. Barrie) The Three Musketeers (Alexandre Dumas) Iliad & Odyssey (Homer) Kama Sutra Dona Perfecta (Benito Pérez Galdós) The Divine Comedy (Dante) The Rise of Silas Lapham (William Dean Howells) The Book of Tea (Kakuzo Okakura) Madame Bovary (Gustave Flaubert) The Hunchback of Notre Dame (Victor Hugo) Red and the Black (Stendhal) Rob Roy (Walter Scott) Barchester Towers (Anthony Trollope) Uncle Tom's Cabin (Harriet Beecher Stowe) Three Men in a Boat (Jerome K. Jerome) Tristram Shandy (Laurence Sterne) Tess of the d'Urbervilles (Thomas Hardy) My Antonia (Willa Cather) The Age of Innocence (Edith Wharton) The Awakening (Kate Chopin) Babbitt (Sinclair Lewis) The Four Just Men (Edgar Wallace) Of Human Bondage (W. Somerset Maugham) The Portrait of a Lady (Henry Jame...

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Plato and innovative voices like H. P. Lovecraft demonstrates an evolution of thought reflective of historical and cultural influences, enriching each piece with depth and relatability. A treasure trove for bibliophiles and scholars alike, this volume invites readers to traverse a spectrum of perspectives and emotions. 'The Ultimate Book Club' is more than an anthology—it is an educational journey that fosters dialogue across genres and eras. Immerse yourself in this unparalleled collection to appreciate the intricacies of the human experience, broaden your literary horizons, and celebrate the harmonious discord of these timeless voices.

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Kazuo Ishiguro, 2021-03-02 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Once in a great while, a book comes along that changes our view of the world. This magnificent novel from the Nobel laureate and author of *Never Let Me Go* is “an intriguing take on how artificial intelligence might play a role in our futures ... a poignant meditation on love and loneliness” (The Associated Press). • A GOOD MORNING AMERICA Book Club Pick! Here is the story of Klara, an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities, who, from her place in the store, watches carefully the behavior of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass on the street outside. She remains hopeful that a customer will soon choose her. *Klara and the Sun* is a thrilling book that offers a look at our changing world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator, and one that explores the fundamental question: what does it mean to love?

before we were yours book club questions: The Headmaster's Darlings Katherine Clark, 2015-08-18 A debut novelist casts a satirical eye at southern society while celebrating the power of great teachers in this award-winning comedy of manners. Winner of the 2015 Willie Morris Award for Southern Fiction As an English teacher at an elite private school in Mountain Brook, Alabama, Norman Laney is as unorthodox as he is morbidly obese. A natural wonder from the blue-collar South, Laney has barged into the exclusive world of Mountain Brook with a mission to defeat “the barbarians,” introduce true civilization in place of its thin veneer, and change his southern world for the better. Laney is adored by his students and by the society ladies who rely on him to lead their book clubs and charm their party guests. But there are others who think he is a larger-than-life menace to the status quo. When Laney is suddenly faced with an ultimatum and his imminent dismissal, he must outflank the principal at his own underhanded game, find out who said what about him and why, and launch his current crop of Alabama students into the wider world—or at least into Ivy League colleges.

before we were yours book club questions: The Light We Lost: Reese's Book Club Jill Santopolo, 2018-02-06 The New York Times Bestseller and A Reese's Book Club Pick “This love story between Lucy & Gabe spans decades and continents as two star-crossed lovers try to return to each other...Will they ever meet again? This book kept me up at night, turning the pages to find out, and the ending did not disappoint.”—Reese Witherspoon “One Day meets Me Before You meets your weekender bag.”—The Skimm “Extraordinary.”—Emily Giffin He was the first person to inspire her, to move her, to truly understand her. Was he meant to be the last? Lucy is faced with a life-altering choice. But before she can make her decision, she must start her story—their story—at the very beginning. Lucy and Gabe meet as seniors at Columbia University on a day that changes both of their lives forever. Together, they decide they want their lives to mean something, to matter. When they meet again a year later, it seems fated—perhaps they'll find life's meaning in each other. But then Gabe becomes a photojournalist assigned to the Middle East and Lucy pursues a career in New York. What follows is a thirteen-year journey of dreams, desires, jealousies, betrayals, and, ultimately, of love. Was it fate that brought them together? Is it choice that has kept them away? Their journey takes Lucy and Gabe continents apart, but never out of each other's hearts. This devastatingly romantic debut novel about the enduring power of first love, with a shocking, unforgettable ending, is Love Story for a new generation. “It's the epic love story of 2017.”—Redbook

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before we were yours book club questions: The Dead Book Club Richard Horchler, 2021-10-12 I would like for the reader to know where the idea came from to write this novel. I have been writing and painting all my life. It is and has always been a passion. My experience over the years has been this. When people found out that I was an artist, they would say, "Oh, my sister is an artist." Or when they found out I was an author, they would say something similar. I am just a little selfish about the words writer and artist. I viewed those comments as insulting. Not long ago, I had this experience happen again, and I had an epiphany. I was wrong! What I failed to understand is that, yes, people do have a story to tell. Maybe not a novel, or even a short story, perhaps a very private experience, or a secret, that is special to them, and it should be. What bothers me is most die with their books. I decided to write a romance/mystery novel and encourage people to share their books and not die with them. So here it is, *The Dead Club*. Enjoy and start your own dead book club. This novel was done with love.

before we were yours book club questions: *Book Club Box Set* Alka Joshi, Sarah Haywood, 2020-07-20 Featuring two REESE WITHERSPOON x HELLO SUNSHINE book club picks, this exclusive collection includes compelling debut novels that will stay with you long after the last page. *The Henna Artist* Escaping from an abusive arranged marriage, seventeen-year-old Lakshmi makes her way from her 1950s rural village to the vibrant pink city of Jaipur. There she becomes the henna artist—and confidante—most in demand to the wealthy women of the upper class. Trusted with their secrets, she can never reveal her own... *The Cactus* For Susan Green, messy emotions don't fit into the equation of her perfectly ordered life. But suddenly confronted with the loss of her mother and the news that she is about to become a mother herself, Susan's greatest fear is realized: she is losing control. As her dismantled world falls further into a tailspin, Susan might have a chance at finding real love and learning to love herself, if only she can figure out how to let go.

before we were yours book club questions: *Out of the Box: a Memoir of an Adoptee* Patricia Bauer Collins RN, 2021-11-16 After years of childhood curiosity, a woman adopted as an infant decides to find her birth mother. It took her years to finally decide to hire a "Search Angel." She got her call only three days later—but she found out that her birth parents had already passed on. However, her birth mother's husband was a joyful fount of information and treated her like his own lost daughter. In *Out of the Box: A Memoir of an Adoptee*, author Patricia Bauer Collins shares her journey to discover her birth parents, as she faces new challenges yet undergoes a great deal of emotional growth. Patricia shares actual letters between her birth mother, Shirley, and Shirley's mother and grandmother regarding "Shirley's problem" when she was just twelve years old. Patricia also tells the story of how she was able to connect with her half-siblings and other relatives—something more exciting than she had ever imagined—even traveling to her Spanish ancestors' 1842 family adobe outside Santa Barbara. For Patricia, connecting with her origins and with her past made her realize that her ancestors were far more important to her than she had thought. Not only did she discover more about her history and the talents and skills she shared with them; she also discovered more about herself, being rewarded along the way with an astounding epiphany of connection.

before we were yours book club questions: *A Real Good Life* Stevie Hendrix, Sazan Hendrix, 2023-10-10 Where are you looking for joy, contentment, and purpose? Stevie and Sazan Hendrix show us that the good life we're looking for won't be found in our latest purchase, achievement, or dream vacation—it's found by intentionally cultivating the simple, everyday moments that make up a real, good life. We say we want the good life, but that often leads us to constantly chase after the next thing, compare ourselves to others, and feel disconnected and unable to enjoy the good things that are right in front of us. Stevie and Sazan know what it's like to search for the good life and, having achieved success at a young age, they know firsthand that the success we think we want isn't what truly satisfies. Even as their careers and social media popularity grew, Stevie and Sazan were still searching for the good life, just like everyone else. What they discovered in that search completely changed how they lived their days—and by extension their lives. In *A Real Good Life*, you'll join them on their journey identifying how you can set yourself up for a good day by being

intentional with all of your hours; discovering your unique process for building faith and connection in yourself, your home, and your relationships; rethinking your routines so you can establish life rhythms that are sustainable and unique; recognizing that reflecting, focusing, gathering, and resting are crucial values; and inspiring you to see life as a gift that should be cherished every single moment. Slow down and trade the endless cycle of striving and competing for real, good days filled with purposeful reflection, intentional focus, gathering with loved ones, and true rest.

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before we were yours book club questions: **Scrambled: A Tuesday Night Book Club Mystery** Jaime Maddox, 2024-10-15 Imma Bruno, a spunky retired librarian in the Pocono vacation town of Garden and founding member of the Tuesday Night Book Club, gets far more than she anticipated when she begins to investigate the curious question of why her reclusive neighbor was spotted at a Fabergé egg exhibit in New York City, and seems to be avoiding the town ladies. Avery Hutchins was just a little girl when her father died on 9/11. She loved spending time in the Pocono mountain town with her grandparents and their friends growing up. When she travels to her grandparents' home, she makes a discovery about her father's death that will force her to face an impossible choice between doing what is right and finally finding a way to regain a part of herself she had lost.

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