

DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE SECRET DAUGHTER

KELLY RIMMER



1. The Secret Daughter is narrated by Sabina, Lilly and Megan. Do you think these characters were reliable narrators? Was there a particular narrator you connected with more? Are there any other characters you would have liked to 'hear' tell part of the story?
2. Who was your favorite character? Why? Were there any characters you disliked?
3. Lilly's thoughts on Megan evolve dramatically over the story – from admiration and gratitude to a deep-set hatred, and finally, to forgiveness. What are the catalysts for these shifts? Do you think her thoughts about Megan are healthy?
4. Do you think Megan and Graeme made the right decisions? If not, where did they go 'wrong'?
5. Do you think Megan and Graeme were good parents to Sabina? What makes a 'good' family?
6. Did you think Megan's relationship with Graeme was realistic? Given the period when this book is set, do you think she could/should have done anything further to assert herself in that relationship?
7. Megan and Lilly have very different attitudes to food and eating in the novel. What do you think these attitudes say about their characters? Do you think one attitude is healthier than the other?
8. Is there a villain in this novel? Why/why not?
9. What did you think about reading a book set in rural Australia? Did it make it more difficult to imagine the setting?
10. Did the story end as you expected it to?
11. Were you aware of forced adoption in Australia before reading this book?
12. Do you think there are ever circumstances where forced adoption is morally right?