



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

The Lake House by Kate Morton

1. The structure of this novel lies in recreating different time periods in Cornwall and London—in the early 1930s and in 2003. Do you feel that the author was successful in moving the reader between the historical and more contemporary times?
2. Thinking about the stories and histories in “The Lake House”, what themes were most interesting to you?
3. The main female characters, Sadie, Alice, and Eleanor are all strong women with flaws. Is this the way you saw them?
4. Sadie Sparrow’s job as a detective and Alice’s bestselling crime-writing career has allowed an interesting incursion of the crime genre into “The Lake House’s” gothic mystery genre. Were you aware of this in your reading?
5. Both World War I and II have tragic and far-reaching effects on the characters and narrative of “The Lake House”. Discuss.
6. Mysteries, twists, family secrets, carefully placed red herrings, and unexpected revelations are now compelling traditions in Kate Morton’s novels. What parts of the novel were key to your enjoyment of the story?
7. The author poses the often complex question of what moral obligation each character has to another within their particular stories. Were decisions made within the novel with which you disagreed?
8. After Sadie stumbles upon Loanneth, she’s drawn to it, returning daily and “no matter which way she headed out on her morning run, she always ended up in the overgrown garden” (p. 135). What is it about Loanneth that intrigues Sadie?
9. Many reviewers have praised Kate Morton’s writing, particularly the way she reveals family secrets. What family secrets were revealed in “The Lake House”? Did you find any particularly shocking? Which ones and why?

The above questions are from Simon & Schuster Canada (2016). Reading Group Guide: *The Lake House*. http://www.simonandschuster.ca/books/The-Lake-House/Kate-Morton/9781451649352/reading_group_guide

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