



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

Lost Roses by Martha Hall Kelly

1. You meet three very different heroines in *Lost Roses*: Eliza, Sofya and Varinka. With whom did you most identify and why?
2. Luba, whose name symbolises love, is a key character in *Lost Roses*. How was she an important character in the story? What do you think of the author's decision to open and close the novel with Luba's voice?
3. Mother/daughter relationships play a vital role in the story. How did these relationships impact Eliza, Sofya and Varinka's lives? Compare Eliza's mother to Varinka's. How did Sofya's stepmother, Agnessa, affect Sofya and Luba emotionally? How did their mother's legacy play a continuing role in their lives?
4. Caroline Ferriday, the protagonist of *Lilac Girls*, is a teenager. Eliza's real-life relationship with her daughter Caroline evolves over the course of the book. What did you like/not like about their portrayal?
5. Sofya had to make some impossible choices in the novel: choosing to leave her family and then her child in order to try to save them. How did you feel about her decisions?
6. Varinka and Taras have a complicated relationship. Do you believe she loved Max? Why or why not? Were you shocked by the twist in her ending?
7. How did you feel when Eliza had a second chance to experience love with Merrill? In what ways was their friendship and then love affair authentic?
8. Were you satisfied with Sofya and Cook's reunion? How do you imagine their relationship evolved after the novel ended?
9. What will you remember most about this novel? Do you plan to read more fiction or nonfiction about the Russian Revolution?

The above questions were taken from <https://www.penguin.com.au/book-clubs/2189-lost-roses-book-club-notes> to enhance your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Martha Hall Kelly lives in New England. She worked as an advertising copywriter for years while raising her children and researching *Lilac Girls*. Kelly holds a degree in journalism from the Newhouse School at Syracuse University and a master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University's Medill School

<https://authorsunbound.com/martha-hall-kelly>

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