



# Book Club in a Bag

## Discussion Questions

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### *Run Away* by Harlan Coben

1. How did the cover art set-up your impression of the book before reading it?
2. On the surface, Simon Greene and Ingrid appear to have it all, but they are carrying the guilt and worry about their daughter who dropped out of college and disappeared. Discuss how people's presented selves do not align with their internal selves.
3. Imagine you were Paige's parent. How far would you go to try to find her and help her?
4. In his pursuit of his daughter, Simon punches her companion, Aaron. This attack goes viral online, and he is reprimanded by millions of strangers. Do you think the video accurately captured the details of this interaction? Were people justified in their criticism of Simon? In your opinion, how is social media shaping society?
5. Simon and Ingrid are warned by one of Aaron's neighbours that "Even if you find [Paige], this story won't have a happy ending." Discuss the meaning of this warning.
6. Can you relate to Simon? Discuss the guilt and blame he carried for his role in what happened to Paige. Do you think his guilt was justified, or was he being too hard on himself?
7. Discuss the Maine religious commune to which Dee Dee professes undying loyalty. Do you think Coben's depiction of the commune is believable?
8. The book ends with a major event. How would you react in a similar situation?
9. There is a moment in every person's life when they realize their parents are human and make mistakes. Do you remember a moment in your life when you came to this realization? How did it shape you as a person?

The above questions were written by Clarington Library, Museums & Archives staff to enhance your discussion of the book.

# Author Biography

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Harlan Coben was born in Newark, New Jersey. He is the creator and executive producer of the Netflix television drama *Safe*, and he is currently filming *The Stranger*. He has received numerous awards and honours from around the world. His works have sold over 70 million copies worldwide.

<https://www.harlancoben.com/bio/>

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