

Book Club Questions – The Lost Girls of Devon

1. The idea of being “lost” is a theme in *The Lost Girls of Devon*, and each of the characters in the book experience that “lost-ness” in different ways. There are so many ways in which a person can be “lost.” In what ways do you see this in the novel? Which characters and their sense of “lost-ness” most struck you?
2. The notion that nature has the power to heal is a strong theme in Barbara O’Neal’s writing. What role(s) does nature play in healing in *The Lost Girls of Devon*?
3. Life is a busy and compelling thing that can often hurt as much as it can sustain. In Zoe’s case, a compounding series of past hurts has kept her away from the people and place she loves most. If it weren’t for the disappearance of her old friend, do you think Zoe would have continued her stubborn avoidance of Devon? Would those past hurts been too big for her to overcome and finally go home again?
4. Zoe and Sage Cooper have an undeniable connection that dates back to their childhood. What do you think about love and second chances? Or are exes an ex for a reason?
5. As a girl growing up in her grandmother’s house, Zoe had big dreams to become a great artist but instead, as she says, ends up a practical graphic designer. Zoe asks herself, ‘did any of us end up where we wanted to be?’ This is an interesting question not only in the books we read and but in the lives we lead—have any of us ended up where we thought we might?
6. Four generations of women make up the nucleus of *The Lost Girls of Devon*, a family dynamic that has deep roots that both tether and twist, making for a complicated mix of connection, secrets, and betrayals. In Zoe’s case, has family ruined or saved her? What impact has her family had on her ability to have other relationships?
7. Below the surface of the novel are the simmering relationships between mothers and daughters. How would you describe each of the respective mother-daughter pairings? Did any of them make you think of your relationships with mothers and/or daughters?
8. Each member of the family has a creative outlet that sustains them. Do you have a creative outlet that grounds you? What is it about creativity that fills the void?
9. Poppy uses tarot cards to give readings as a way to offer people hope and healing. Have you ever had your cards read? Was it a positive or negative experience for you?
10. Zoe’s daughter, Isabel, is a victim of bullying in the very public realm of social media. If you have kids, how do you talk to them about this untamed place? Have you been the victim of cyber bullying? How did you handle it?

11. The diverse geography in this story has shaped and informed the women who have been touched by these various places. Do you like to travel? What is your favorite part about it? Do you like to relax on vacation, see the sights and explore, sample new food and culture?
12. In *The Lost Girls of Devon*, Poppy runs away to India and ends up in Udaipur, which enchanted her completely. What is the most magical city you've ever seen? What about it enchanted you?
13. *The Lost Girls of Devon* is told through the alternating viewpoints of four members of the same family. Do you like reading books that explore the story through multiple viewpoints, or do you prefer hearing the story through the voice of one or two characters? What can multiple viewpoints add? How can they detract from your reading experience?