

September
Girl
a novel

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Discussion Questions

Early in the novel, Livvie makes a discovery that prompts her to revisit her past. Would you have reached out to Robbie in her position? Or do you subscribe more to Robbie's philosophy of leaving the past "as it was"?

Livvie never told her husband, Jake, about her history with Robbie. Why do you think that was? Based on what she reveals about Jake, how do you think he would have reacted? Do you think their lives would have been very different if she'd shared her secret, and in a good way or a bad way?

Do you think Livvie always felt there was something missing from her life, or do you think she was content? She tells Paul that she resents that her choice was taken away from her. Do you think it's ever better not to know something, or should a person always have a choice?

What do you think Dorah Ellerbe's intentions were regarding Livvie? Regarding Robbie? Knowing what prompted the custody battle with Blanche, do you feel sympathy for Dorah?

In chapter twenty-seven, Livvie learns about a pivotal event in Robbie's childhood. Did knowing about this experience change your opinion of his behavior? Why or why not? How do you think he felt about his mother? Why do you think he remained loyal to his aunt?

If you were in Paul's shoes when he learned about Livvie, what would you have done?

Near the beginning of the novel, Livvie flees her house in Connecticut, then spends much of the novel trying to reach the house in Weymouth. Why do you think the Weymouth house is such a powerful lure for her? How does the theme of *home* relate to her character's internal journey?

When Robbie returns from Angola, he refuses to help Livvie. Did you agree with his decision? Why or why not?

What do you think Robbie intended to do with the ring? What do you think changed his mind?

The present-day scenes in *September Girl* take place in the year 2000. People had cell phones but not smartphones, and very little social media existed. (Facebook, for example, wasn't founded until 2004.). Do you think this story would have unfolded differently if it had taken place in the year 2019?

When you learned about Robbie and Susan, how did you feel?

The novel ends on a note that suggests that Livvie and Robbie's story will continue forward, off the page. What do you think happens next?