



THE DISAPPEARED

REBECCA J. SANFORD

Discussion Guide

1. In *The Disappeared*, we meet three very different mothers: Esme, Lorena, and Vivian. Which one of these women do you relate most to, and why?
2. Esme believes that Claudio put Lorena's life at risk. What role do you think Claudio played in Lorena's life?
3. *The Disappeared* explores the relationships between biological parents, adoptive parents, and children. Do you think adoptive children should know about their biological identity?
4. Vivian feels that it's a selfish indulgence to pry into her husband's secrets. Why do you think she refrains from asking him important questions?
5. How did the author explore themes of motherhood in the novel? Do you think motherhood is a universal experience?
6. Esme believes that faith is belief in the absence of proof. How do the different characters in *The Disappeared* exhibit Esme's definition of faith?
7. Do you think Rachel's behavior toward Jonathan at the end of the book was justified? How do you think Rachel will navigate her relationship with Jonathan in the future?
8. The book explores themes of identity and truth. How would you react if you learned that part of your own biological identity was not what you thought it was?