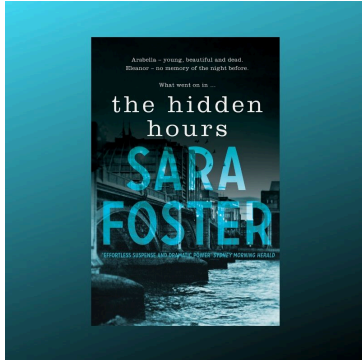


BOOK GROUP QUESTIONS



1. Eleanor is a troubled character. Were your sympathies drawn to her, or did you find her difficult to like?
2. What did you think had happened to Arabella? Did your ideas change throughout the story?
3. Susan's life and mothering style seems quite different from Gillian's, yet they both end up with their families in crisis. Are there any parallels between them?
4. The novel is told in two very distinct locations: central London and outback Australia. Do you think the author did a good job of depicting these two places?
5. *The Hidden Hours* is a book of crises, but also a story of characters too busy/preoccupied/self-focused to notice one another in everyday life. Is there a correlation? Discuss.

6. Consider Arabella's character: how would you have found her in real life? Does understanding anything of her personal life make you feel differently towards her?

7. The story of Eleanor's childhood interrupts the straightforward murder mystery in present time. Why do you think the author chose to depict those historical events in such detail?

8. One of the themes of the novel is the codes of silence we end up keeping, to protect others or ourselves. Do you think these silences are always destructive, or can they ever be constructive too?

9. Discuss the character of Solomon. Did his story develop as you thought it would? How did you feel about him by the end?

10. How did the ending leave you feeling? Did the story finish as you hoped or suspected?

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