

After She Left: Discussion Questions

1. Which character in the book do you think underwent the biggest change? Which ended up surprising you the most?
2. Did you suspect Abigail's reasons for leaving? What other reasons did you suspect? Would you have found her behavior more or less sympathetic if she had left for the reason you suspected?
3. In what ways did you feel the sisters Abigail and Gillian were alike? In what ways did you feel they were different? Did you relate to one more than the other?
4. Gillian and Abigail's father, Greg, is an important character in the lives of all three women in the book, but we never meet him. Did you feel like you got a good sense of his personality? What did you think of him as a brother, husband, and father?
5. About halfway through the book, the setting changes. How did you feel this affected the mood or pace of the book? Did you enjoy the shift?
6. Why do you think Lorna made an online profile on Ancestry.com? Do you think she had any responsibility to tell Gloria first?
7. The author points out that the "She" in the book's title could refer to either Abigail or Lorna. What do you think might have happened if Lorna had never left Birch Bend? What do you think might have happened differently if Abigail had not gone to find Lorna?
8. How did you feel about Oliver's revelation about his donor daughter? Would this have felt so earth shattering to you in Gillian's shoes, or did you think she overreacted? What do you think her reaction says about her perspective on family, and did you feel this had changed by the end of the story?
9. Do you think Abigail makes the right choice by not returning to her marriage at the end? What do you think are the biggest factors that she had to balance in making her decision?
10. Gillian hates the nickname "Mouse" given to her when she was younger, but towards the end of the novel, Abigail rejects the idea that Gillian isn't brave. What does bravery mean to you? Have your feelings about this changed over time? Could you identify a moment of bravery for each of the main characters in *After She Left*?