

Suggested Book Club Questions for

Those We Left Behind

by Milree Latimer

1. How does this epigram speak to you? How does it speak to the story?

When we speak of loss, we also speak of love
The ribbons tie again and the dots connect.
Loss finds its voice as memory takes its cue
How we came to this theater is the miracle.
— JOHN BASS, *Sister*
2. What does it mean “She used concentration like a drug.”? [\[Page 6\]](#)
3. What feelings did you experience as you read Casey and Galean’s first draft? [\[Page 8\]](#) What did this draft tell you about them?
4. What do you think the attraction (is) was between Casey and Galean?
5. What does showing up in life mean in Casey’s context? [\[Page 16\]](#)
6. “There’s someone I’ve met and we’ve been seeing one another for a while now.” [\[Page 22\]](#) What’s your reaction? What did you think of Casey’s reaction?
7. The scene on pages 76, and 77 reveals underlying characteristics about each: Helena, Casey and Galean. What do you think those might be?
8. What do you think Casey means in her letter to Galean when she writes: “Eros and madness are strange bedmates.”? [\[Page 83\]](#)
9. What thoughts did you have as you read the phone conversation between Andy Kingwood and Casey in Chapter twelve? [\[Pages 85-90\]](#)
10. What did you think as you read Casey’s letter to Galean and Helena? [\[Pages 104-105\]](#)
11. “Grief and loss have many faces... I think the masks need to be lowered.” [\[Page 114\]](#) Remembering this is 1982, might Casey be ahead of current thinking? If you believe so, why?

12. When Casey and Galean reveal the depth of their feelings, what were your responses? *[Pages 123-124]*
13. “Anger, disappointment, confusion reassembled themselves into caring as though a clearing breeze had passed through.” *[Page 125]* What does this description mean to you?
14. What roles do Rob, Anya and Stephen (Casey’s grad students) play in this story?
15. Andy Kingwood. Hmmm? What do you think his role is?
16. Does this ring true? Why? “...the steadfast steady task that women for thousands of years have embraced — listening to one another’s stories and shedding light on old dark places...” *[Page 202]*
17. The phantom character that floats throughout this story is the specter of abandonment — what layers of meaning are portrayed? How does abandonment drive Casey, Galean and Helena?
18. There are thirty quotes throughout the story at the beginnings of chapters. Was there one, or more than one, that spoke to you?
19. As Casey and Galean begin to settle in to their new story what did you experience? *[Pages 254-255]*
20. Do you have a sense of where this story, Casey’s story might unfold from her statement, “Let’s begin our stories?” *[Page 309]*