

“Lady in the Window” Reader’s Book Club Discussion Guide

•In *Lady in the Window* the concept that our loved ones live on even after death is at the forefront. Take a moment to talk about this concept. Do you believe in life after death? Do you feel our loved ones surround us and guide us after they have passed from this physical world? Share your thoughts and experiences.

•*Lady in the Window's* main character Kate Grace experiences a variety of synchronistic events and mystical happenings that indicate to her that her deceased mother Catherine is communicating to her from the afterlife. How do you interpret some of these happenings or synchronistic events?

•The Hawaiian culture revolves around ohana (family) — whether they be blood relatives, adopted or intentional — and the natural world, and the care, protection, and support of both. In *Lady in the Window*, Olivia shares some of these ideas and concepts with Kate. Discuss these Hawaiian beliefs and what we can all learn from them.

•Aloha is more than a greeting hello or goodbye. Talk about the many meanings of aloha as described in the book, and perhaps in some of your experiences.

•After Kate's first trip to Kauai where she interviews Olivia, on her way back to New York, she's melancholy as she watches the Kauai coastline disappear from view. Why do you feel she's so melancholy?

•Kate has dated her boyfriend, Jason for five years. During that time she thought they were on the same page and wanted the same things from each other — marriage and family. Do you think Kate was right to trust Jason? Why do you think Kate stuck with Jason for so many years? What would you have done in Kate's position?

•Kate went through a grieving process after breaking up with Jason. She shut herself off from her friends and family and got off the track of her usual routines (going to the gym, eating healthy, etc.). Do you think this is typical of what happens after a significant breakup? Discuss how you've dealt with a breakup – both the positive and the negative.

•In *Lady In the Window*, Kate expresses to her girlfriend Cindy that she isn't going to get intimate with Kai unless she knows there's potential in the relationship and that they are on the same page. What are your thoughts on this topic? Kate also tells Kai that she doesn't believe in living together before marriage. What are your views and why?

•Family and marriage are important to Kate. Is this thinking old-fashioned?

- Over lunch one afternoon with her daughters Kate and Carla, Catherine shares the story of how she and her husband (their father) met. In telling the story, Catherine shares that she "just knew" Glen was the one for her. Carla also shares that's the way she felt when she met her husband. Do you think it's possible for people to "just know" someone is a right love match after an initial meeting?
- In *Lady in the Window*, Kate has a close relationship with her parents. Some experts say, that while children may sometimes become distant as teens, as they mature, they become closer to their parents. Do you believe this? If so, why do you think this is so? Discuss your experiences.
- Kate's mother Catherine helps guide Kate on her path to novel writing when she gives Kate a box of items from Kate's childhood that include a series of short stories Kate wrote as a young teen. Why do you think this serves as an impetus for Kate to pursue her dream? Have you ever had an experience where a conversation you had with someone made you re-evaluate your dreams and goals? Explain.
- Kate is a successful journalist. Her mother, Catherine, also had a successful career as well as being a wife and mother. Discuss the importance of pursuing one's passion and talk about the "balance" necessary.
- Kate loves to cook, and in *Lady in the Window*, there are many scenes where friends and family gather to share a meal. Why is this type of togetherness "food for the soul"?
- Through Kate's eyes, her photography, and experiences in Kauai, the reader can glimpse a taste of Hawaii. What scenes or images resonate with you most?
- In *Lady in the Window*, Catherine decides to forgo surgery for her brain tumor. If you were in her position (or a family member), what stance would you take?
- In *Lady in the Window* Kai and his father are at odds until they both forgive one another. Why is family forgiveness essential to healing?
- Several months after Catherine dies, Carla mentions to her sister Kate that Glen, their father, has started to date. What are your thoughts on that subject if you were in Kate's position? What about Glen's?
- Which scenes/chapters in *Lady in the Window* moved you the most and why?

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