

Sousanna: The Lost Daughter

Book Club Questions (contains spoilers)

Do you think the multiple perspectives added to the story, or detracted from it?

Did reading Sousanna's chapters in her "present" voice add to the emotional impact?

How did your opinion of each major character change over the course of the story? Do you feel equal sympathy with each member of the family? Why or why not?

What character in the book did you most relate to? Why?

Which character would you most like to meet, and why? If you could ask or tell that character one thing, what would it be?

Do you think Sousanna's parents could have done anything differently? Would it be harder to watch your child starve, or to let a stranger take her/him away?

Share a favorite quote from the book. Why did this quote stand out?

Do you think the author told the whole story? Why or why not? If you could ask the author one question, what would it be?

The proverb says that absence makes the heart grow fonder. Do you think Sousanna's missing of her natural family caused her to remember them and their life in Greece as better than it really was?

What aspects of the history were new to you? Did learning about them have any effect on your perceptions of Greece, Germany, WWII, etc.?

How is adoption today different from when Sousanna was adopted? Do you think the added rigorousness in vetting parents is worth the cost of turning off potential adopting families? Why or why not?

Throughout history, education has often taken a back seat to putting food on the table. Do you agree with Niko's decision to pull his children from school to help in the fields? If not, how would you explain your reasons to him?

Although the author did not compare her story to situations today, did current news come to mind as you read? Do you think this book has anything to add to the conversation? If so, what?

Bonus Book Club Questions for a More Personal Conversation

Do you feel that you understand Margaret's attitude toward Sousanna? Discuss their relationship. How was it similar to, and different from, your relationship with your mother?

How do you decide if a risk is worth taking?

Are you a part of, or do you know, an adoptive family? What about someone who has given up a child for adoption? How might these situations be made less hurtful or stressful for those involved?

How much of the animosity among the Greek family members do you think was caused from the circumstances by which Sousanna was separated from her family? Do you think each member was reasonable in his or her reactions? How might some of this animosity have been overcome? Is there a past situation in your family that is still having repercussions? How might it be resolved?

Did Sousanna's experience have any influence on your perception of immigrant children today—particularly those separated from their parents? If so, how?