

LITTLE SECRETS: Book Club Questions

1. Do you think it's helpful, or healthy, for Marin to attend her monthly Parents of Missing Children support group meetings?
2. During group, Marin allows her guilt over Sebastian's kidnapping to consume her. Simon tells her, "Sebastian was four, Marin. Kids wander. Ninety-nine percent of the time they just get lost and are found again. It wasn't your fault. He's gone because someone took him. A *kidnapper* took him." What do you think of Simon's statement, and his suggestion that bad luck or timing – a child being in the proximity of a stranger capable of kidnapping a child – is more to blame than Marin being distracted that day at the farmer's market?
3. After the FBI investigation goes cold, Marin hires former Seattle police detective Vanessa Castro to continue the search for Sebastian. Why do you think Marin didn't tell Derek that she hired a PI?
4. When Marin learns that Derek is having an affair, Marin could have made the decision to confront Derek, which might have ended his affair, or ended their marriage. Why do you think she chose to focus her anger on McKenzie, the other woman, instead?
5. Considering that Derek and Sal have never liked each other, do you agree with Marin's decision to stay friends with Sal after she got married? And why stay friends anyway, when it's clear that Marin and Sal's lives have gone in such different directions?
6. After a good weekend away with Derek, Marin spirals when she learns that Frances's son was found dead. What do you think of Marin's dark net activity? Do you agree with her therapist, Dr. Chen, that this is a form of self-harm?
7. McKenzie has 50,000 followers on Instagram but very few close real life friends, and the one friend she does have – her roommate Tyler – she often lets down. Why do you think she's unable to sustain genuine friendships?
8. Do you think McKenzie's motivation to date wealthy married men is solely based on money, or do you think her reasons go deeper than that?
9. Not long after the FBI investigation into Sebastian's disappearance was put on the backburner, Derek received a ransom demand for Sebastian. Without notifying the authorities or Marin – who has just attempted suicide – he tried to get his son back on his own, only to be told by the kidnappers that Sebastian was dead. Do you think Derek should have told Marin everything at this point, or do you agree with his decision to shield her from all of it? And did he really shield her, or did he keep Marin in limbo with no possibility of closure?

10. Surrounded by the police and the FBI at his mother's vineyard farmhouse, Sal kills himself. How do you feel about this, considering Sal spent the last year doing everything he could to keep Marin from doing the same to herself?
11. What do you think about Marin's decision to give McKenzie the \$250,000 at the end? And why do you think Marin threw in the Louboutins?
12. With Sebastian home, do you foresee a happy ending for Marin and Derek? Can they repair their marriage?