



READING GROUP QUESTIONS

WARNING: These questions and discussion points contain spoilers. Please do not read on if you haven't already read No More Lies.

Mallory Hansen believes her life is finally perfect. She has a thriving career and a happy relationship with Nate, a successful corporate lawyer. But that security is shattered in a single night when she meets a woman who apparently knows more about Nate's life than she does. She discovers Nate has been suspended for sexual harassment, and he has hidden it from her for ten days. Mallory is plunged into a void of doubt, forced to ask herself a question every

woman fears: how well does she really know the man she shares a bed with?

When the accuser, Gabi Stafford, vanishes, Mallory's life is dismantled further. She is drawn back into a shared history with five old school friends, bound by a tragedy from fifteen years ago that they have all spent over a decade trying to forget. As Mallory is arrested and accused of murder herself, she realises that their perfect lives are built on a foundation of silence and petty jealousies. No More Lies is a story about the fragility of trust and the way the secrets we bury in our youth can return as vengeful ghosts.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. **The Accusation:** Mallory is mortified to learn about Nate's suspension from a stranger at her book club meeting. Given Nate's past of treating girls shabbily, did you ever believe he was innocent, or were you as suspicious as Mallory? Discuss how this specific humiliation shapes her willingness to believe the allegations.
2. **Mallory's Fragile Trust:** Mallory admits that mistakes in her past made it hard for her to trust her own judgement. When Nate hides his suspension from her for ten days and then lies to the police about his whereabouts on the night Gabi vanished, were you sympathetic to her doubts, or did you feel she should have stood by her man regardless?
3. **The Shadow of 'The Last Night':** The story is anchored by the group of friends' final night together fifteen years ago at The Lost Garden. Looking back at their treatment of Erin Cox – leaving her to hide in the woods while they planned to sneak off – do you think the group's petty jealousies as teenagers made them indirectly responsible for the tragedy that followed? Discuss which of them might have had the courage to speak out against this behaviour.
4. **The Skeleton in the Pond:** A major turning point is the discovery of human remains by Rivington volunteers after a building collapsed into a pond during a deluge fifteen years ago. How did the revelation that the real Erin Cox died that night change your perception of each of the characters? How did it change the way they viewed their final night together?
5. **Jodie Perry's Double Life:** Jodie successfully lived as Erin Cox for fifteen years, even serving a prison sentence under that name. Discuss the sheer audacity of her plan – from stealing Erin's

identity to milking the Brennans for child support for a son who didn't exist. Did you suspect Jodie was the fake Erin before the police made the connection? And how did you feel about Barbara Brennan's decision to hide the fact that Nathan had a son?

6. **The Car Park Distraction:** Taya is distracted at the supermarket by a stooped elderly man in a tweed cap who drops coins in the rain. This decoy gave the abductor just enough time to steal the car with baby Hana inside. Looking back, were there clues that this crime was stolen to order and meticulously planned rather than opportunistic? What could she have done differently in that car park?
7. **The Mutilated Badger:** When baby Hana is found, she is clutching a toy badger with its eyes gouged out. This gruesome object pointed directly to the group's childhood game. Why do you think Jodie chose such a symbolic message rather than just a simple ransom note?
8. **The Red Coat Deception:** The police were convinced Mallory was in a bar with Gabi because of CCTV showing her limited edition red pleated coat. Mallory eventually proves it wasn't her by pointing out that the woman in the photo had bitten her fingernails, while her own were immaculate. Given that Mallory's need to be immaculate stems from a childhood spent in the shadow of a sister her mother always called 'the beautiful one', do you see her obsession with her image as a shallow character flaw or a poignant survival mechanism?
9. **The Framing of Connor Healy:** Connor is arrested for a violent assault on Jodie after his own fiddler cap is found at the scene. Knowing that Jodie hired Lee Scott to stage the attack to frame Connor, do you feel the depth of her grudge against him – based on her hatred of his father, whom she claims stole her mother away from her family – is justified?
10. **Revenge as a Motive:** Jodie reveals she felt her dreams were in ruins because of the group, specifically citing Taya telling her father about her shoplifting and Nate's rejection. Do you think her fifteen years of festering hatred were fuelled more by the accident in the woods or by the fact that the others went on to lead perfect lives while she struggled?
11. **The Climax at Rivington:** In the final confrontation, Tom Douglas is shot while trying to talk Jodie down. Discuss Tom's decision to step forward unarmed. Was he being a hero, or was he – as Becky later tells him – a bloody idiot for not waiting for the armed response team?
12. **The Aftermath and Redemption:** The book ends with the group attending Connor's funeral. Given the trauma of Gabi's murder and the revelations about their past, do you think Nathan, Mallory, Taya, and Akin can ever truly move past the thick fog of mistrust that Jodie created?