

## Reader Questions for THE SECRET SISTER:

1. Many people would say that parenting has changed a great deal during the past two or three generations. Do you agree? If so, what do you feel are some of the most significant changes? What positives result from these changes? Do you see any negatives?
2. Quite a few children seem to carry resentment because of the way they were raised, while others seem to escape the damage from poor parental behavior—and the resentment it causes. Why is there such a drastic difference, often within the same household?
3. How can people who hang on to resentment, especially against friends or family members, begin to let it go? What might happen if they don't?
4. Do you feel that Keith will be able to change his life? Do you think it was his mother's behavior that caused him to act out? Does his relationship with Maisey make a difference, give him a better chance at recovery?
5. Josephine has never been a nurturing parent, and yet she always made sure her children were safe and supervised, and that their physical needs were met. What do you think compels her to act as she does? Would you say she loves her children in spite of her sharp edges?
6. Do you blame Gretchen for doing what she did—even though, because of her actions, Roxanne/Annabelle lived a happier life?
7. If you were Roxanne/Annabelle, how would you feel toward the woman who raised you?
8. According to Robert Frost, "Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in." Would you say Fairham is a safe haven for Maisey? Or another challenge?
9. How does the love Rafe shows Laney affect Maisey?
10. What impact did Malcolm, Maisey's father, have on her life? How did his death change her—and her family?
11. Do you feel that Maisey and Rafe are a well-matched couple? Why or why not?