

the GLOSS
LOOKING FOR JANE

HEATHER MARSHALL

1. Did you enjoy the book? Rate it from 1 - 5.
2. Did you know about the postwar maternity homes and the underground networks offering illegal abortions before reading this book? How do these chapters of history inform your understanding of women's rights in Canada?
3. Due to an unfortunate mistake the letter addressed to Nancy doesn't arrive to her in 2010. What do you think might have happened if she received it then?
4. St. Agnes home for unwed mothers is not a welcoming place for the women who are sent there. How are the girls made to feel small or powerless? Where and how do they find joy despite their situations?
5. The novel explores mother-daughter relationships, particularly through Nancy but also through Angela. How are these women shaped by their mother's decisions, and how do those choices affect their own attitudes towards pregnancy and motherhood?
6. How does Angela's storyline illustrate the evolution of women's rights? In what ways do they still need to advance?
7. Consider the ways friendships and families are portrayed in the novel. What brings people together? What do these examples say about our need for human connection?
8. Discuss the roles of secrets through the characters of Frances, Sister Agatha, Nancy and Evelyn. What is accomplished when they share their stories or secrets with one another? What happens when they don't?
9. What are the different factors that inspired Evelyn to become a doctor? What do you think she could offer to her patients that others couldn't?
10. This book is historical fiction and looks at the very polarizing subject through the lens of many women but also different decades - did you enjoy the different time lines and characters? Did it improve the story?