



# BOOK CLUB KITS

## THIS KIT CONTAINS

- ◆ 2 Regular Hardback Copies
- ◆ 5 Regular Paperback Copies
- ◆ 1 Book on CD

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

### THEN SHE WAS GONE BY LISA JEWELL

- 1) Then She Was Gone is, first and foremost, a mystery. Yet many questions are answered quite early on in the book. How soon did you guess what really happened to Ellie, and if you did, did it affect your enjoyment of the book.
- 2) In the prologue, it says "Looking at it backward it was obvious all along." Now that you've finished the novel, do you agree? What "warning signs" referred to in the prologue might Ellie have spotted if she'd been more aware?
- 3) Did you think Lisa Jewell's portrayal of Laurel and her journey was realistic? Could you relate to the way she dealt with her grief, or did you find it alienating?
- 4) What was your impression of Poppy when she is first introduced? Did this change over the course of the book, and if so, how?
- 5) Then She Was Gone is divided into six parts. Why do you think Lisa structured the book this way? How would you categorize each section- what makes it distinct from the other parts of the book?
- 6) For much of the book, Laurel and her daughter Hanna have a fraught relationship as Laurel fails to let go of unfavorable comparisons between Hanna and Ellie. Do you think it's normal to have a favorite child? How should parents handle these feelings if they arise?
- 7) Throughout the novel, Laurel has moments in which she feels something is not quite right, but often, writes it off as paranoia as a result of losing her daughter. Have you ever written off your own concerns? How can you distinguish between when you are being pessimistic, and when you should trust your intuition?
- 8) There are four different perspectives shown in the book, but only Noelle and Floyd's narration are in first person. Why do you think Lisa chose to write their chapters in first person, directly addressing other characters, while Laurel and Ellie's chapters were told through third person? What effect did this have on you as you read?
- 9) Floyd and Noelle are both characters with some obsessive tendencies. What other similarities do they share, and in what ways are they different? Were you able to sympathize with either or both of them?
- 10) In chapters from Ellie's perspective, she repeatedly brings up the subject of blame, thinking of all the moments that led to what happened to her and what she should have done differently, or what others could have done to save her. As you read, did you find yourself blaming characters for the unforeseen consequences of the choices they made? If so, in which situations?