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Johnston Public Library Book Discussion Questions

Find Her by Lisa Gardner

Summary

Flora Dane is a victim.

Seven years ago, carefree college student Flora was kidnapped while on spring break. For 472 days, Flora learned just how much one person can endure.

Flora Dane is a survivor.

Miraculously alive after her ordeal, Flora has spent the past five years reacquainting herself with the rhythms of normal life, working with her FBI victim advocate, Samuel Keynes. She has a mother who's never stopped loving her, a brother who is scared of the person she's become, and a bedroom wall covered with photos of other girls who've never made it home.

Flora Dane is reckless.

... or is she? When Boston detective D. D. Warren is called to the scene of a crime—a dead man and the bound, naked woman who killed him—she learns that Flora has tangled with three other suspects since her return to society. Is Flora a victim or a vigilante? And with her firsthand knowledge of criminal behavior, could she hold the key to rescuing a missing college student whose abduction has rocked Boston?

When Flora herself disappears, D.D. realizes a far more sinister predator is out there. One who's determined that this time, Flora Dane will never escape. And now it is all up to D. D. Warren to find her.

Discussion Questions

1. When Flora is trapped in Devon's garage, she muses that "people saw what they wanted to see." Devon was more than just a bartender and Flora more than just another victim. Discuss how their social ruses both helped and hindered them.
2. Why do you think the author chose a fox as a recurring symbol throughout the novel? What do you think it symbolizes?

3. In her childhood, Flora's mother tells her "Every creature must learn to make it on its own. Encouraging dependence doesn't do anyone any favors." Why do you think such a mantra made an impression on Flora in her later life, and in what ways do you think she adopted it?
4. Discuss the role of victim advocates from the information provided in the book. What do you think their main function is, and who do you think they benefit the most?
5. Discuss the symbol of Dr. Keynes's shoes. Flora and Dr. Keynes call them a "symbol of civilization...a note of beauty and culture and care." What other interpretations can be made as to why Flora was so preoccupied with them when she first awoke in the hospital? How does clothing play into self-image and our perception of others?
6. How does D. D. Warren balance being a full time detective, a mother, and a wife? What would you say are her greatest strengths and weaknesses in both her professional and personal life?
7. Discuss Flora's relationship with her mother. How do you think it will improve or degrade after the events of the book? What about her relationship with her brother?
8. When Stacey Summers's father calls Detective D. D. Warren, she tries not to give him too much information. When Flora is missing the first time, her mother is also not privy to the investigation. Despite the risks involved, do you agree with how missing person's cases are handled in this book? Where should there be boundaries in notifying family members of details in the investigation?
9. At times Flora imagines Jacob laughing or mocking her from beyond the grave. Why do you think he's become such a large part of her conscience so many years after she was rescued? Discuss the relationship dynamics between victims and their captors.
10. What is the significance of Flora giving up her father's name to Jacob? Why do you think this was one of the final straws in Flora giving up her identity?
11. Do you think Flora is justified in becoming a vigilante given everything she has gone through?

Summary and Discussion Questions from the publisher