

All the Missing Girls Discussion Questions

by Megan Miranda

Author Bio: (from Fantastic Fiction & Website)

Megan Miranda was a scientist and high school teacher before writing her first book, *Fracture*, which was for teenagers. She is now a bestselling author of both adult mysteries and teen books. Megan has a BS in biology from MIT and spent her post-college years either rocking a lab coat or reading books. She lives in North Carolina with her husband and two children.



Characters:

- **Nicolette “Nic” Ferrell** – School counselor. Lives in Philadelphia. Everett is Nic’s fiancé. Mother died when Nic was 16. Father has dementia and is almost out of money.
- **Bailey** – Nic and Corrine’s friend from high school. Has not spoken to Nic since Corrine’s disappearance. Has a younger brother, Stuart, who is a police officer.
- **Annalise Carter** – (23) – A few years younger than Nic and her friends. Photographer. Lives above her parent’s garage - through the forest/next to the Ferrells’ house.
- **Tyler Ellison** – Nic’s high school sweetheart. Handyman.
- **Everett** – Nic’s fiancé. They have been together a year. Partner in his Dad’s law firm. Comes from old Philadelphia money.
- **Daniel Ferrell** – Nic’s older brother. Insurance claims adjuster. Married to Laura and expecting their first child. Never graduated high school. Described as “hard to read.”
- **Patrick Ferrell** – Nic and Daniel’s father. Former college professor. Had a stroke a year ago which caused dementia. He is in a nursing facility called Grand Pines.
- **Detective Hannah Pardot** – Detective in charge of the Corrine Prescott case. She is from the State Bureau of Investigation.
- **Jackson Porter** – Bartender. Corrine’s boyfriend throughout high school. They broke up right before she disappeared.
- **Corrine Prescott** – Nic’s best friend growing up. Wild child who liked to test/manipulate people. Disappeared 10 years ago when she was 18.
- **Cooley Ridge** – Small town where Nic grew up. Near the Smokey Mountains in North Carolina.

Discussion Questions:

1. Did you like the book? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think the author chose to tell the story in reverse? Did you like or dislike it? How did the reverse telling of the story affect your interpretation of the situation and your assessment of the characters therein?

3. This story is written from a first person perspective. Did you like or dislike that aspect of the story telling? Is he or she a reliable narrator? Why or why not? How might our understanding of the story be different if the author had chosen to employ more than one narrator or a different narrator?
4. Nicolette Farrell initially does not want to return to Cooley Ridge. What is her experience of homecoming like? What seems to be the same about the town and the people in it and what seems to be different? How has Nicolette changed or not changed since her time growing up in Cooley Ridge?
5. Who is the antagonist of the story? Does that position in the book fluctuate? If it does, who is the ultimate “bad guy” and why?
6. Who is responsible for what happened to Corrine Prescott? Why?
7. Who is responsible for what happened to Annalise Carter? Why?
8. How are the victims of each disappearance treated? How do the people in town react to their disappearances? What roles do reputation, gossip, opinion seem to play in the investigations?
9. Everett says that people can change, but Nicolette seems to believe that people do not change in any substantial way. Does the book ultimately suggest who is right? Do you agree? Explain.
10. What lies do the characters tell, and why do they tell them? Do you feel that any of the lies were justified? What role does perspective seem to play in the determination of what is true and what is not?
11. Who is the monster in the woods? What does the story seem to suggest about how myth and superstition shape our fears and sense of what is—and is not—menacing?
12. Nic says about Corrine, “Everyone had two faces and she looked deep into us until she found it.” What did you think about Corrine? Why do you think she acted the way she did?
13. What does Nicolette reveal about Corinne that gives us insight we might not otherwise have? How does this point of view—and the point of view of the other characters—shape or influence your assessment of Corinne’s fate?
14. Can readers distinguish who is a “good” or “bad” character as the story unravels or at the book’s conclusion, or is a more complex view of morality presented? Explain. What motivates the characters to make the moral choices they each make? Do you feel that they made the right choices? Why or why not?
15. Evaluate the theme of memory in the book. Are the memories of the characters reliable? Why or why not? What does this suggest about the way that time influences our perspective and how the past affects our future?
16. Since the majority of the action takes place in Nicolette’s memory, how does the author create suspense and tension?
17. Were you surprised by the conclusion of the book? Why or why not? How did your opinion of each of the characters change by the story’s end? If you could change the ending, what would you do to make it better?
18. Megan Miranda has written several other books and series. Will you read any of them?

References:

- Fantastic Fiction – <https://www.fantasticfiction.com/m/megan-miranda/>
- LitLovers – <https://www.litlovers.com/reading-guides/fiction/10722-all-the-missing-girls-miranda?start=3>
- Megan Miranda website - <https://meganmiranda.com/about/>
- Novelist – <http://web.b.ebscohost.com.ezproxy.clevnet.org/novp/detail?vid=2&sid=4604b96e-0264-4752-926a-9ec28acea24d%40pdc-v-sessmgr01&bdata=JnNpdGU9bm92cC1saXZl#UI=10494591&db=neh>

Megan Miranda Books

Fracture

1. Fracture (2011)
2. Vengeance (2014)

Stand Alone Books

- Hysteria (2013)
- Soulprint (2015)
- The Safest Lies (2016)
- All the Missing Girls (2016)
- The Perfect Stranger (2017)
- Fragments of the Lost (2017)
 - Come Find Me (2019)
- The Last House Guest (2019)
- The Girl from Widow Hills (2020)

If you liked All the Missing Girls, try...

- The Long and Far Away Gone – Louis Berney
 - The Current – Tim Johnston
 - These Things Hidden – Heather Gudenkauf
 - Angels Burning – Tawni O’Dell
 - Then She Was Gone – Lisa Jewell
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