

BOOK GROUP READING GUIDE

Flight by Isabel Ashdown

Moving between the majestic coastline of North Cornwall and the leafy suburbs of London, *Flight* is a story of secrets and lies – and of the indelible traces that are left behind when someone tries to disappear.



When Wren Irving's numbers come up in the first ever national lottery draw, she doesn't tell her husband, Rob. Instead she quietly packs her bags, kisses her six-month-old daughter Phoebe goodbye, and leaves.

Two decades later, Rob has moved on and found happiness with their oldest friend, Laura. Phoebe, now a young woman, has never known any other life. But when Rob receives a mysterious letter, the past comes back to haunt them all. With their cosy world thrown into turmoil, Laura sets out to track Wren down and discover the truth about why she walked out all those years ago.

For more information on Isabel Ashdown, and for other books published by Myriad Editions, please visit www.MyriadEditions.com

1. Flight shifts between different viewpoints and between the past and the present. Do you have a favourite character, or feel more sympathy for one over the other?

2. Wren is a complex personality. Do you feel you understand her motivations for her actions? Did your view of her change as the novel progresses?

3. Can Wren ever be forgiven for what she's done? Can leaving a partner and child in this way ever be justified?

4. Would you feel differently if the 'leaver' were the father?

5. Would Wren have left if she hadn't come into money?

6. It would be easy to attribute Wren's state of mind to postnatal depression alone, but do you think there were earlier indications of her fragility – or her need to escape?

7. Is there such a thing as a 'natural mother'?

8. What does the novel seem to say about nature versus nurture?

9. How do you feel about Wren's mother, Eliza?

10. What is your opinion of Robert as a character?

11. What do you make of Laura's relationship with her parents?

12. Were Robert and Laura always meant to be together?

13. Laura has sacrificed a lot to live the life she does. Is she the real hero of the story?

14. How does the North Cornwall setting affect the mood of the novel?

15. How does Ava's role alter your view of the main characters?

16. What does the novel – and Phoebe's experience in particular – make you think about the extent to which we are our parents' children?

17. Does Wren, Robert and Laura's story reveal anything about the nature of love, both in terms of friendship and romantic love?

18. What does the novel tell us about the ways in which the past haunt us?

19. How satisfying did you find the ending of the novel?

20. What does the future hold for the family?