

Book Club Questions for THE STONE MANOR

1. Describe the pace of this book. Did it draw you in immediately or did it take some time to get into the story? What feelings did you experience as you read the story?
2. Describe the dynamics between characters. For example, Kathryn and Beth. Can you relate to their relationship as sisters? What complicated their relationship? Describe the relationship between Kathryn and her two sons. Do you think it changed? If so, how? What about the dynamics between Mairi and her grandmother, Margaret? Discuss other dynamics between characters you found interesting, frustrating, or familiar. Do they remind you of people you know? Do you identify with any of the characters?
3. Do the main characters change by the end of the book? Do they learn something about themselves? If so, what is it?
4. Did you find the story interesting? Were you surprised by any events or conversations? Was the story line predictable?
5. Have you ever had a dream or unexplained thoughts or events that led you to a story of your own?
6. Did you find the time-line shift between the contemporary story and the 1700s story about Mairi easy to follow? Was there a common thread running between the two story lines? Why might the author have chosen to tell the story this way?
7. Did the use of magic realism and fantasy enhance the story? If so, how? If not, what would you change?
8. What were some of the themes of this book? Did the author use symbolism in places? If so, what did she use and to what purpose?
9. Were there passages that stood out to you as noteworthy? How would you describe the author's use of dialog? Were there conversations that you enjoyed or that were troubling?
10. How did you feel when you read the ending? Was it satisfying? If so, why? If not, why not? What would you change about it?
11. If you could ask the author a question, what would you ask? Does this book lead you to want to read more by this author?
12. Have you learned something new by reading this novel? Do you feel you know more about Scotland? How do you feel about the Isle of Skye?