



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

The Last Thing He Told Me by Laura Dave

1. Consider the quotes that open each part of the book. What connects them? What relation do they have to each part of the story?
2. Consider the choice of narrator. How does the narrator shape our understanding of the contours of this story?
3. In the prologue of the book, Hannah recalls that on their second date, Owen grilled her about the “could-have-been boys” of her past, “the men I’d left behind, the men who had left me.” In what ways is Owen one of those “could-have-been boys”?
4. Discuss the message that Owen sends to Hannah before he disappears. What does Owen mean by “Protect her”? How does Hannah interpret Owen’s request?
5. We learn early on that Hannah’s mother left her when she was young. How is this similar to and different from the absence of Bailey’s mother? How does it compare to the way Owen leaves Hannah and Bailey?
6. Hannah realizes that Owen isn’t running for just any reason, but that “he’s running from something he’s terrified of.” Did you have any theories about what Owen was running from, and did the real answer surprise you? What are some things that might make you drop everything and run the same way Owen did?
7. Grady tries to impress upon Hannah the reality of transitioning into WITSEC, outlining what she and Bailey would need to leave behind to start their new lives. Imagine what that might be like for you and your family. What names would you choose? What jobs, hobbies, or identifying activities would you have to give up? How would you make a life for yourself?

The above questions were taken from www.readinggroupguides.com for your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Laura Dave was born in New York City on July 18, 1977. She grew up in Scarsdale, New York. Dave graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1999, where she received a B.A. in English. She has an MFA from the University of Virginia's creative writing program.

After graduating from graduate school, she worked a freelance journalist for ESPN. She is the author of *London Is The Best City In America* (2006) and *The Divorce Party* (2008). *The First Husband* (2011) and her current New York Times bestseller, *Eight Hundred Grapes*. – *Bowker Author Biography*

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