

THE LIAR'S GIRL by CATHERINE RYAN HOWARD

Book Group Questions

1. What expectations were set by the title and how do these compare to your experience of reading the novel? What are the implications of referring to a woman as a *girl*? Was it justified here?
2. Discuss the ways in which Alison's adult life has been effected by the events of her past.
3. Consider the friendship between Alison and Liz in the 'past' storyline. We only get to know Liz through Alison – do you think Alison is a reliable narrator? What are your impressions of Liz? Is theirs a typical friendship between teenage girls?
4. The book is interspersed with scenes from the point-of-view of an unnamed man. Before you reached the book's resolution, who did you think he was? What did you think his relationship was to Alison and Will's story? How did these scenes impact your reading experience?
5. Has *The Liar's Girl* changed how you feel about social media?
6. [For American readers] *The Liar's Girl* is set in Dublin, features Irish characters and was written by an Irish author. How did this effect your reading experience? In what ways, based on your reading of this book, is being Irish and living in contemporary Ireland different to being American and living in the United States? What about it, if anything, surprised you?
7. Which of the two detectives is better at his job, in your opinion? Why?
8. Most people cannot imagine confessing to something they didn't do and maintain that they never would under any circumstances. However we see time and time again – in the headlines, in true crime documentaries, in memoirs – that it happens with frightening regularity to people from all walks of life. What are your thoughts on false confessions after reading *The Liar's Girl*? Did they change during the course of your reading? What would you have done if you found yourself in Will's position?
9. Did your feelings towards Will change over the course of the book? At what points, if any, did you believe he was innocent? At what points did you think he was guilty? *Is* Will guilty and if so, what of? Does he deserve to be free now, after serving ten years?
10. The tagline of *The Liar's Girl* is 'Her first love confessed to five murders but the truth was so much worse.' Do you agree? How did you feel about the ending? Did it surprise you?

- Thank you so much for reading *The Liar's Girl* -