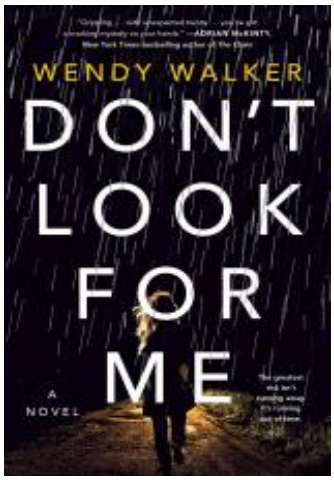
ReadingGroupGuides
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Don't Look for Me

by Wendy Walker



About the Book

The greatest risk isn?t running away. It?s running out of time.

They called it a ?walk away.? The car abandoned miles from home. The note found at a nearby hotel. The shattered family. It happens all the time. Women disappear, desperate to start over. But what really happened to Molly Clarke?

When a new lead comes in two weeks after the search has ended, Molly?s daughter, Nicole, begins to wonder. In spite of their strained relationship and the tragedy that rocked their world, nothing about her mother?s disappearance makes sense.

Against her father?s wishes, Nicole returns to the small, desolate town where her mother was last seen, determined to find the truth. The locals are sympathetic and eager to help. The innkeeper. The bartender. Even the police. Until secrets begin to reveal themselves. When Nicole learns about another woman who vanished from town, then discovers a small hole cut into a fence guarding a mysterious, secluded property, she comes closer to the truth about that night --- and the danger surrounding her.

The night Molly disappeared began with a storm, running out of gas, and a man in a truck offering her a ride to town. With him is a little girl who reminds her of the daughter she lost years ago. It feels like a sign. It feels safe. And Molly is overcome with the desire to be home, with her family --- no matter how broken it is. She accepts the ride. But when the doors lock shut, Molly begins to suspect she has made a terrible mistake.

Discussion Guide

1. How does the beginning of the novel set the tone for the rest of the story?

2. In the novel, the narrative alternates between multiple timelines and perspectives. How did this affect your reading experience? Do you think this structure worked well within the novel?

3. We know that Molly blames herself for her daughter, Annie?s, death. What did you think happened to Annie when this was first mentioned? Were you surprised when it was revealed? How did knowing or not knowing the true story affect your opinion of Molly?s character?

4. In chapter four, Nic is reflecting upon her feelings toward her mother. ?Molly Clarke?s voice and face and smell could provoke feelings that were at war inside her. Agony and bliss. Rage and love... It was painful to be with her.? In addition, there is also a passage in chapter six that says, ?Maybe Nic wasn?t her mother. But they were bound together by their actions that day, the bow and stern of a sinking ship.? Discuss the mother/daughter dynamic between Nic and Molly and what we know about their relationship. What other mother/daughter relationships are there in the novel, and how do they shape the narrative?

5. What do you make of the fact that Nic is the only member of Molly?s family who really tries to find out what happened to her? How does this speak to their relationship and the dynamics of their family overall?

6. In chapter seven, Alice says, ?We were waiting for you. We had to wait a long time.? At this point in the novel, what did you begin to suspect was happening to Molly? Were there any other parts of the novel that felt revealing to you?

7. Nic talks about how Molly had been ?the definition of home, the embodiment of family.? She reflects on how their family had been perfect, and how the death of Annie felt like a punishment. What did you make of this passage and what it says about the Clarke family?

8. Alice?s character is very complex and dynamic for such a young child. What role does her character play in Molly?s life and in the novel overall?

9. In chapter 22, Officer Reyes says, ?Every coin has two sides, right?? Nic then thinks about the two sides of her father and others in her life. Discuss the various characters in the novel that have two very different sides. Which character stands out the most to you?

10. How did you feel about the ending of the novel? What was your reaction? Did you anticipate how the story would end?

Author Bio

Wendy Walker is the author of the psychological suspense novels ALL IS NOT FORGOTTEN, EMMA IS THE NIGHT, THE NIGHT BEFORE, DON'T LOOK FOR ME, WHAT REMAINS, AMERICAN GIRL, BLADE and the Audible Original audio play MAD LOVE. Her novels have been translated into 23 foreign languages, topped bestseller lists both nationally and abroad, and have been optioned for both television and film.

Wendy holds degrees from Brown University and Georgetown Law School. Prior to her writing career, Wendy trained

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