

A READER'S COMPANION

Hold onto *what lingers*

As you read, make notes of what stood out to you.

NOTES / FAVORITE LINES

reflect

ABOUT THE NOVEL

Love outlives the body.

Unfolding across four decades, *The Secret of Surviving In The Sea* is a multigenerational story about grief, survival, and the ways love continues to shape a life that persists after loss.

When your identity is defined by your love, where do you find yourself when a piece of that love is lost?

LITERARY FICTION | 1940s-1980s

Louise Hurd

louisehurdwords.com

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BOOK CLUB *discussion guide*

The Secret of Surviving In The Sea

A NOVEL BY

Louise Hurd

READ • REFLECT • DISCUSS

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION

Characters

identity, perception + connection

- 1 If you could spend an afternoon with one character, which character would you choose?
- 2 Did your feelings about any of the characters change by the end of the story?
- 3 Which character do you think would understand you the best?
- 4 Who do you think The Secret of Surviving In The Sea was about?
- 5 Did your concept of who the main character is change?

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION

Relationships

love, loyalty + complicated bonds

- 6 What themes did you identify in the book?
- 7 Did any of the relationships in the story remind you of your own?
- 8 How would you feel if your partner had a friend like Diana?
- 9 How would you feel if your partner had a friend like Tom?
- 10 Have you ever had a friend like Tom or Diana?
- 11 How are the dynamics between Tom and Tracy, and Adam and Diana different?

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION

Meaning

aftermath, interpretation + hope

- 12 How would you describe The Secret of Surviving In The Sea to someone?
- 13 Did the ending leave you hopeful, heartbroken, or both?
- 14 If you recommended this book to a friend, what would you say it's really about?
- 15 Who would you recommend The Secret of Surviving In The Sea to?
- 16 What do you think is the secret of surviving in the sea?