



Liz Byrski

Lost and Found

Reading Group Notes

Blurb

Rose Walters has never taken a leap of faith quite like this one.

She is flying home to the UK for the first time in decades to search for her first love. But what she finds there is far from what she expected.

When Rose turns up at her door, Dora Stutchbury is not sure she's willing to rake over the coals of the past – especially those she has taken care to let lie for so long. But both women are about to be surprised as an unlikely friendship shows them a way forward – and finally unearths some answers to questions about the past, an absent son and lover, and the women themselves.

About Liz Byrski

Dr Liz Byrski A.M. is a novelist, non-fiction writer, former journalist and ABC broadcaster, with more than fifty years' experience in the British and Australian media. She is the author of eleven bestselling novels, including *Gang of Four* and *A Month of Sundays*, as well as more than a dozen non-fiction books. Liz lives in Melbourne, Australia. She has two sons and twin grandsons.



Discussion Questions

**** Please note, these questions contain spoilers ****

1. This novel is titled *Lost and Found*. What are some of the things that are lost by the main characters in this story, and what do they find?
2. What drives Rose to revisit her past in Rye, and how do her motives evolve throughout the story?
3. When Rose talks to people about Tom, her first love, they sometimes remember him as being quite different from the man Rose remembers. How does the novel explore the idea of memory versus reality? Have you had an experience like this?
4. How does the setting of Rye influence the mood of the novel? Consider how weather and seasonal changes mirror or contrast with the emotional landscapes of the characters.
5. How do the characters cope with loss and unfinished business? Discuss the various ways they find closure or continue to be haunted by the past, particularly Rose, Dora and Chris.
6. Examine the dynamic between Rose and Chris. How do they support each other, and what strains their relationship?
7. Which character do you think undergoes the most significant transformation by the end of the novel, and what triggers this change?
8. Secrets and revelations are central to the plot of *Lost and Found*. Discuss how withholding and disclosing information impacts the characters' relationships.
9. The author uses Tom's journal, as well as letters and emails, to tell the stories of characters who are 'offstage' in the novel. What is the effect of this? Is it a successful technique, in your opinion?
10. How does the historical context, particularly relating to the politics and feminist movements of the second half of the twentieth century, influence the narrative and its characters?
11. Explore the theme of friendship in the novel. How do friendships shape the personal growth of the characters?
12. How does the use of a first-person narrative affect the reader's engagement with the characters, and in particular, Rose? What insights do we gain from her perspective?



- 13.** How does the author build suspense and foreshadow future events? Identify literary techniques used to create tension.
- 14.** Discuss the characters' abilities to cope with emotional upheavals. Who shows the most resilience? Discuss this in relation to some of the life events the characters have experienced.
- 15.** How do politics and personal convictions shape the identities of the characters, particularly Dora and Tom?
- 16.** How does the past influence the present actions and decisions of the characters in *Lost and Found*?

