



17 September - 1 October, 2020

Discussion Guide

- 1 Do you think that Tikka is a reliable narrator? Why, or why not?
- 2 Everyone in Tikka's town has a story about Cordelia Van Apfel. What's your opinion of Cordie?
- 3 There are a number of unresolved mysteries at the heart of this novel. Do you feel like you know what happened the day the girls ran away, and in the days leading up to it? What do you think Mr. Avery's role was? Mr. Van Apfel's role?
- 4 The river in Tikka's hometown stinks, but she seems to be the only one who can smell it. What do you think this means?
- 5 Why do you think the author included the Lindy Chamberlain storyline?
- 6 How do you feel about Laura and Tikka as adults? Did seeing them in the present change the way you felt about them as children?
- 7 For a tragic novel, there's a surprising amount of black humour in *The Van Apfel Girls Are Gone*. Why do you think this is?
- 8 Where do you think the Van Apfel girls have gone? Are they still alive?