

## PINGEL SISTERS BOOK CLUB

# *The Forgotten Garden* by Kate Morton

## Discussion Questions

### **RATING**

Did you like *The Forgotten Garden*? Why or Why not. Please be specific about what made you like it or dislike it.

### **PLOT**

The story jumps between 3 time periods - Eliza and Rose in the early 1900s, Nell's trip to England in 1975 and Cassandra in 2005. How did you feel about the intertwining of the three lines? Did you feel they balanced well? Was one better written than the others?

### **CHARACTERS**

Could you see Eliza and Rose realistically acting the way they did? Was it believable that a husband like Nathaniel would actually go along with their plan?

### **THEMES**

One of the themes of the book is the sense of identity we derive from our family. Every character in some way lost that sense of their identity at some point in the novel. What other themes and motifs did you notice in the book?

### **CRITICISM**

In the story, Nell almost completely shuts out her family when she finds out she was adopted. Her whole personality seems to shift. Do you feel this shift was necessary to the story and did it seem authentic or overly dramatic?

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### **READ WITH INTENTION**

What is something you got out of this book?

### **LENGTH**

It must be extremely difficult to write a book of more than 500 pages? Do you feel the length was justified, or do you think she could have shortened the story without losing any of the substance?

### **AUTHOR**

How did *The Forgotten Garden* compare to other books by Kate Morton? Would you be willing to try another of her books?

### **RECOMMENDATION**

What's another book you recommend to your fellow book club members after reading this book? Something with a similar genre, style, themes or plot.

### **RESEARCH**

What would you like to get most of this book club?