

BY GWYN GB

# *L O N E L Y* *H E A R T S*

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## **BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE**

*Thank you for choosing Lonely Hearts for your book group, I hope you enjoyed reading about Claire and Rachel.*

*To help you with your discussion, here's a short list of suggested prompts and some information for you to share over a cup of coffee or glass of wine.*

*If you would like the author, Gwyn GB to skype into your group meeting for a chat about the book and her writing, or have any specific questions, then please get in touch: [gwyn@gwyngb.com](mailto:gwyn@gwyngb.com)*

Rachel loves animals and works at a dating agency bringing lonely people together – only somebody is watching her every move and she's scared... Neil didn't see who killed him – but his murder brings DI Claire Falle on the case. What she uncovers leads her to discover that a serial killer is preying on the clients of the dating agency where Rachel works. Can Claire work out the connection between all the deaths before Rachel becomes the next victim? And what is it in Rachel's past that haunts her? As DI Claire Falle investigates the lives of the dating agency staff and clients, she is pulled into a tangled web of loneliness and deceit which will have devastating consequences for someone.

# DISCUSSION TOPICS

**SPOILER ALERT:** These discussion points will give the story away, so don't read further until you've read the book first!

1. What do you think the main theme/themes of Lonely Hearts are?
2. Who is your favourite character and why?
3. Do you like the character of Rachel? Do you think she believes that what she is doing is right? Could you relate to or sympathise with her, even though she is doing something immoral?
4. The structure of Lonely Hearts jumps between 2016 and 1994 so that the story of Rachel's childhood and therefore her 'mission in life' is gradually told. Do you think this type of structure helps with the storytelling and builds tension or do you prefer a more linear story structure?
5. What do you think about Claire's relationship with her parents, particularly her father? This relationship is explored in depth in the second book in the series, Home Help.
6. What are your feelings about Rachel's dad? He was obviously devastated when his wife, Sally, left – but is there ever any excuse for lying to your child about what has happened to her mother?
7. Do you think that Claire and Rachel are similar characters? Rachel seems to connect with Claire but they are obviously on different sides of the law and moral boundaries.
8. Claire and Jack clearly didn't work out. Is that just because they weren't suited, or do you think Claire is to blame?
9. What are your feelings about loneliness? Do you think that everyone needs somebody?
10. What do you think Rachel is going to do next? How will she react to finding out her mother is still alive?
11. What do you think of the book's title? How does it relate to the story's content?
12. Do you think the book was plot or character driven?
13. Do you have a favourite passage in the book?
14. How did you feel about the ending?

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR GWYN GB**

*Gwyn grew up an avid reader and writer, completing her first novella before she was 14. Born in the UK, she decided to go into journalism and became a national TV newsreader and journalist, working for the BBC and ITN as well as freelancing for national newspapers and magazines.*

*Gwyn met her Jersey born husband in the UK and with their two young boys, dogs and goldfish they moved to the island.*

*Islands was Gwyn's first published novel.*

*You can find out more about Gwyn's books at [www.gwyngb.com](http://www.gwyngb.com) including her new Crime mystery series featuring Dr Harrison Lane.*

*You can also sign up to her Readers Club and receive updates, special offers and a free novella.*

## **LONELY HEARTS**

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