

BURYING THE HONEYSUCKLE GIRLS

Book Club Questions

1. If Althea had led a different life – if she had followed her father's expectations and not gotten involved with drugs and alcohol – do you think he might have told her the truth about Trix, Collie, and Jinn earlier?
2. What did all the Honeysuckle Girls have in common, and what made them dangerous women?
3. Jinn Wooten was independent and had the love and support of Tom Stocker. What do you think it was, then, that ultimately kept her in Sybil Valley? Do you think she was ever really intended to leave with Tom?
4. The status of women changed drastically over the course of the years covered in the book – 1937, 1962, and 1987. How did certain things remain the same – especially for Collie, Lindy, Trix, Molly Robb, and Althea?
5. Jay is one of the only good men in the book. How did even he bend to certain out-of-date beliefs?
6. Once confined in state insane asylums, most people did not attempt to run away. Why do you think that's true? And how can that be compared to women who did not run to escape abusive or dangerous domestic situations?
7. How has mental health care improved through the years? And the stigma attached to sufferers of mental illness? How has it stayed the same?

8. Honeysuckle is a recurring theme in the book. How do you think it could be seen as a metaphor?

9. Dove was married to a faith healer / evangelist and seemed to possess her own special, psychic gift. Do you think she was truly "gifted" and, if so, why didn't she save Jinn from being sent away to Pritchard?

10. Which character did you most identify with? The least?