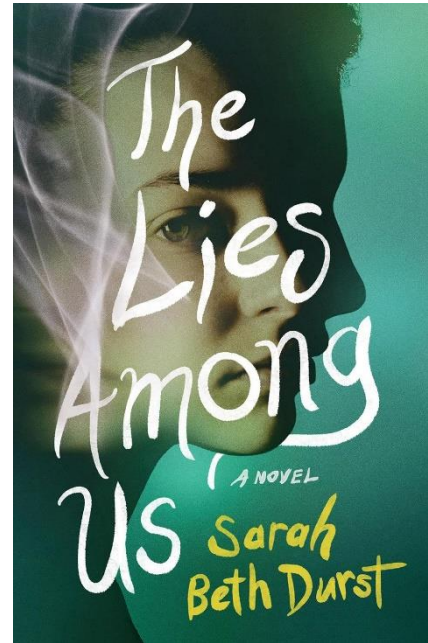


The Lies Among Us
by Sarah Beth Durst

Book Club Discussion Questions

1. *The Lies Among Us* explores the nature of lies. What kind of lies surround you, and in what way do they shape your life (for better or worse)?
2. Lies and misinformation are ever-present, from social media to politics. Why do you think the author chose to examine such a large, widespread issue through the lens of a family drama? In what ways does making the topic personal expose the universal?
3. Why do you think the author chose to tell the story of a woman who doesn't exist? How did the speculative elements of *The Lies Among Us* enable the author to explore lies, grief, and sisterhood?
4. The characters in *The Lies Among Us* work through their grief (or fail to work through it) in a variety of ways. How do the lies they tell others and, more importantly, themselves help or hinder their healing?
5. Hannah and Leah have a complex relationship, despite (and because of) the fact that Hannah doesn't exist. In what ways are they truly sisters? What makes someone family?
6. The relationship between mothers and daughters is at the heart of *The Lies Among Us*. In what ways do mothers shape their daughters—and vice versa? How can we avoid passing the pain of one generation on to the next?
7. Both Hannah and Leah have been affected by the lies of their mother, Eleanor. It requires a significant amount of work for them to break free of the damage she's done and find their own ways forward. What role does forgiveness play in the processing of trauma?
8. Sylvie plays a key role in Hannah realizing who (and what) she is and who she wants to be. Have you had someone in your life play a critical role in your understanding of yourself? Have you been that person for another?
9. In the end, Rabbit chooses to keep his liars. Do you think this was the right choice? On a related note, do you think it was right for Hannah to allow him to make this choice? Where is the line between permitting a person to make their own decisions versus saving them from suffering?
10. What role does art play in either creating or destroying lies? In a similar vein, what role does art play in processing grief?



11. What does the muck that flows through the streets of Queens represent to you? What is its relationship to the shadow wolves?
12. Hannah tells her story in first-person present tense, while Leah's story is presented in third-person past tense. Why do you think the author made this choice? How did it affect your experience of the novel?
13. What does it mean for a lie to have a purpose? How does finding a purpose change the trajectory of a life?
14. Do you think it's ever possible to break free of all the lies that shape our lives? And should we?