

Lost Lake ~ Sarah Addison Allen

NMPL BOOK CLUB – JULY 8, 2014 @ 6:30

About the Author

New York Times Bestselling novelist Sarah Addison Allen brings the full flavor of her southern upbringing to bear on her fiction -- a captivating blend of magical realism, heartwarming romance, and small-town sensibility. Her novels include *Garden Spells*, *The Sugar Queen*, and *The Peach Keeper*. She was born and raised in Asheville, North Carolina.

**Want to learn more about Sarah Addison Allen?
Visit her at www.Facebook.com/SarahAddisonAllen
Or follow her on Twitter! @SarahAddisonAll**

Discussion Questions

1. The title of this book is *Lost Lake*, and the theme of loss runs throughout the entire narrative. What did you think the titular lake's name meant when you started reading the book, and did that idea change for you over the course of the book?
2. Storytelling plays a large role in the lives of many of the characters in this story—and Kate, a born storyteller, has the power to alter Wes's perspective about his sad and troubled past just through one powerful retelling. Who else tells themselves stories about their history, and do you think all their stories are true?
3. Eby's falling-down resort attracts misfits of all kinds, some more likable than others. Which characters did you find the most endearing? And which, inversely, alienated you? Were there others who won you over by the novel's end?
4. Sarah Addison Allen writes a sort of everyday magic into her stories that sets her apart, and it seems to touch every character in a different way. Lisette experiences a heartbreaking sort of magic, in the haunting companion who shares her kitchen and her silence. Devin, meanwhile, experiences a haunting of sorts too—but one that feels far more innocent and hopeful. Why do you think these two characters are the ones to experience ghosts firsthand? What sets them apart from their compatriots at the lake?

Lost Lake ~ Sarah Addison Allen

NMPL BOOK CLUB – JULY 8, 2014 @ 6:30

5. Other characters, like Kate and Eby, experience their life's magic as a sort of enchantment, unpredictable and yet not unpleasant. Did that carry over to you as you were reading it? Did the characters' easy acceptance of day-to-day magical happenings make it easier for you to believe in them too?

6. The art from the postcards of Lost Lake hold great meaning to those who see them. Would any of them make you want to visit Eby's home? What did you think of the one that shows a young and in love Eby and George? Were they pictured the way you'd visualized them?

7. What was your view of Wes before you read the letter he finally shared with Kate? How did that change when you learned what he had done all those years ago?

8. The women in Kate's extended family are all too experienced with widowhood. Eby calls it the "Morris curse." But all of the widows react very differently to their tragedies. What is it about some of the Morris women that makes them especially vulnerable to losing themselves in grief? What, do you think, would have happened to Kate and Devin had Kate never *woken up* from her own sorrow?

9. Eby says that if "we measured life in the things that almost happened, we wouldn't get anywhere." Do you agree? Do you have some of your own fateful "almosts" as well.

10. At the end of the book, Eby is bound for Europe again, traveling for the first time since her honeymoon. What do you think draws her back there, and what do you imagine she might send or bring home from her travels?

JOTTINGS...