BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

1. The title Brave Girl, Quiet Girl references some poignant scenes throughout the book. In what way was this literary phrase used as a central theme?

The love between mother and daughter is highlighted in the three main relationships, each one fraught with its own challenges to finding love and acceptance. What are the commonalities that each relationship struggles with?

Early in the book, Brooke says the following: “Well, you know how it is. We either grow up to be our mother or we make a solemn vow to the universe to be her polar opposite.” Do you believe this to be true? How does Brooke’s attitude color her relationship with her own mother?

When driving to the movie theater with her daughter, Etta, Brooke’s mother begs her to use her car for safety. However, it’s because Brooke has the Mercedes that the car is stolen. Do you believe that it was either woman’s fault that this happened, and could it have been prevented?

Both Brooke’s mother and Molly’s mother have very ingrained beliefs about life. In referring to her daughter, Molly’s mother says, “There’s no welcome in my home for the devil,” while Brooke’s mother believes the whole world is a dangerous place. What do you think is the underlying emotion driving both of these women’s viewpoints?

When Bodhi takes off to find food for Molly and Etta while they’re in hiding, he’s arrested for stealing about seven dollars’ worth of food. How does this reflect on the legal system and the problem of teen homelessness in the US? In what other ways did this book shine a light on this issue?

What does it reveal about Molly’s character when, despite the risks and having everything to lose, she puts herself in harm’s way to help a lost child?

After Brooke does what she considers the right thing with Molly, bringing her to her mother’s home, Molly spends the night in the garage. Brooke wakes, only to find that her mother has thrown the homeless teen out, and now Molly is missing. How does this pivotal point trigger a transformation in Brooke’s character?

What do you think finally changed Brooke’s mind about allowing Molly to move in with them and become part of her family? Do you think it was the most beneficial decision for all involved?