

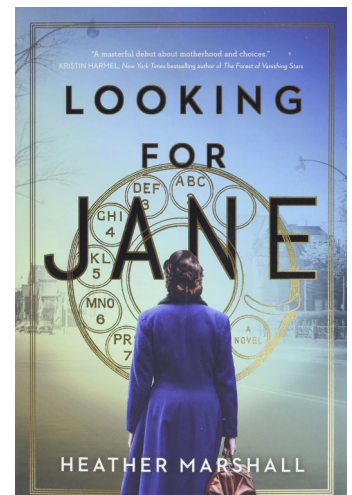
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Looking for Jane Heather Marshall

Discussion Questions

1. Did you know about the postwar maternity homes and the underground networks offering illegal abortions before reading this book? How do these chapters of history inform your understanding of women's rights in Canada
2. St. Agnes's Home for Unwed Mothers is not a welcoming place for the women who are sent there. How are the girls made to feel small or powerless? Where and how do they find joy, despite their situation?
3. The power of a mother's love is a central theme throughout the novel. How do the women in the novel express their love for their children, either adopted or biological, or during pregnancy? When does that love help heal relationships?
4. The novel also explores the mother-daughter relationship, particularly through Nancy, but also Angela. How are these women shaped by their mothers' decisions, and how do those choices affect their own attitudes toward pregnancy and motherhood?
5. What are the social expectations of women during the 1960s and onward, and how do the women in the novel fulfill or circumvent these expectations? For example, what barriers does Evelyn overcome while pursuing medical school or working as a doctor? What pressures might Frances also experience?
6. Dr. Morgentaler warns Evelyn that the costs of illegally providing abortions are high. What risks do Evelyn – and the others fighting for women's rights – face? Why are the risks worth it?
7. Contrast the experience Nancy has at Clara's abortion against her own. What do their stories highlight about freedom of choice and the importance of accessibility?
8. Discuss the role of secrets through the characters of Frances, Sister Agatha, Nancy, and Evelyn. What is accomplished when they share their stories or secrets with one another? What happens when they don't?
9. The novel underscores that time as a force can drive the characters' decisions and regrets. How does the passage of time influence Evelyn, Nancy, and Frances as their lives unfold?



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About the Author

Heather Marshall lives with her family near Toronto. She completed master's degrees in Canadian history and political science, and worked in politics and communications before turning her attention to her true passion: storytelling. *Looking for Jane* is her debut novel

Via Simon & Schuster Canada (<https://www.simonandschuster.ca/authors/Heather-Marshall/178649731>)

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