

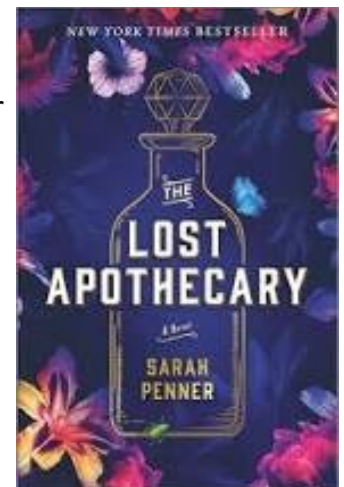
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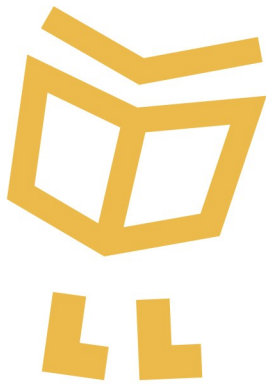
The Lost Apothecary Sarah Penner

Discussion Questions

1. The book opens with Nella in her shop, preparing to dispense a poison meant to kill a man. Her work is sinister, and much about her character is dark and disturbing. When you first learned that Nella was a murderer, how did you view her? How did your feelings change over the course of the book as more of her past was revealed? Did you believe she would eventually find redemption? In the end, did you see her as a hero, a villain, or something in between? Why?
2. At the beginning of Caroline's story, she finds the apothecary vial while on a mudlarking tour. Had you heard of mudlarking prior to reading this book? Do you believe that fate or coincidence led to her discovery? Have you ever stumbled on something that you consider to be fate?
3. Both Nella and Caroline have been betrayed by men in their lives. In what ways did the two women respond similarly to these betrayals? In what ways did they respond differently? Do you feel that one woman was more emotionally resilient than the other?
4. *The Lost Apothecary* explores the idea of female empowerment and rebelling against a man's world. In what ways did Nella, Eliza and Caroline empower themselves? Do you consider *The Lost Apothecary* a feminist book?
5. Which of the three characters --- Nella, Eliza or Caroline --- did you find the most compelling or enjoyable to read? Why?
6. The novel is paced purposefully so that the truth about Nella's fate is slowly revealed over the course of the story. What techniques or literary devices did the author use to "drip-feed" this information and maintain the book's suspense?
7. Discuss the meaning of the title, *The Lost Apothecary*. In your opinion, which character is the real "lost apothecary"?



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About the Author

Sarah Penner is the New York Times and internationally bestselling author of *The Lost Apothecary* (Park Row Books/HarperCollins) which will be translated into forty languages worldwide and is set to be turned into a drama series by Fox. A graduate of the University of Kansas, Sarah spent thirteen years in corporate finance and now writes full-time. She and her husband live in St. Petersburg, Florida with their miniature dachshund, Zoe. To learn more, visit [SarahPenner.com](https://www.sarahpenner.com).

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