



# The Silent Sister

Diane Chamberlain

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## READING GROUP GUIDE

### About the book:

Riley MacPherson has spent her entire life believing that her older sister Lisa committed suicide as a teenager. Now, over twenty years later, her father has passed away and she's in New Bern, North Carolina cleaning out his house when she finds evidence to the contrary. Lisa is alive. Alive and living under a new identity. But why exactly was she on the run all those years ago, and what secrets are being kept now? As Riley works to uncover the truth, her discoveries will put into question everything she thought she knew about her family. Riley must decide what the past means for her present, and what she will do with her newfound reality.

### Discussion Questions

1. How did the false story of Lisa's suicide influence the path Riley took in her career? How did discovering the truth change her approach?
2. On page 87, Danny tells Riley, "It's not my *mind* that's sick...It's my *soul*." What does he mean by this?
3. "Her violin had gotten her through some terrible times and now, during the loneliest, scariest time of her life, she didn't have the one thing that could calm her." Do you have something you turn to during times of hardship in a similar way?
4. How did you react to Danny's vehement desire to see Lisa arrested? Did your understanding or reaction change as the story unfolded?
5. On page 318, Celia says, "justice comes in many forms." What does she mean by this? Do you agree?



6. While Riley is looking for the truth about her family she isn't always sure that she will reach out to Lisa if she is able to find her. What do you see as the turning point in her search when she makes a firm decision to contact Lisa?
7. Throughout the novel both Jeannie Lyons and Verniece Kyle lie to Riley, though with vastly different motives. Did you suspect that they were hiding something? If so, what was it that made you suspicious? What secrets did you think they were keeping, and were you surprised by the truths that Jeannie and Verniece eventually revealed?
8. In what ways do both Riley and Lisa attempt to maintain a sense of connection to family that they have lost?
9. Both Danny and Riley express complex emotions over both the loss of Lisa and then later the discovery that she is alive and maintaining a new identity. What conflicting emotions does Riley feel? Why? How do they compare or contrast to Danny's feelings and the way he expresses them?
10. How did you react to Riley's decision to move to Seattle and maintain the lie about her and Jade's history?

**About the author:**

DIANE CHAMBERLAIN is the international bestselling author of twenty-two novels. She lives in North Carolina with her partner, photographer John Pagliuca, and her shelties, Keeper and Cole.

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