

1. The prologue of the story is a flashback of Maggie and Erin as young girls, ending with Erin saying, “You found me, Maggie. I knew you’d find me.” Why do you think the author chose to start the novel with this memory?
2. On page 79, Maggie says, “Erin is quick, a blur, always in motion. Maggie sits quietly and plays or looks through books. I am Maggie. Maggie is quiet. Erin is not. Erin is freckles and brown skin in the summer. She is hair in her face and quick smile and loud voice. Erin is always moving.” How do you think this description frames their relationship with one another?
3. In the novel, the narrator alternates between different timelines. How did this affect your reading experience? Do you think it worked well within the novel?
4. Maggie’s flashbacks of her relationship with Erin are laced throughout the novel. What insight into both women does the reader gain? How do you think these memories shaped who Maggie is now?
5. The mountains of Ireland play an important backdrop for *The Mountains Wild*. On page 91, Maggie recounts, “I think about how on some level, all of us have been stuck back here in the mountains—me, Roly, Uncle Danny, Jessica, Emer and Daisy, probably even Conor and Laura and Brian and Lilly.” How do the mountains tie various characters together? How might the story have changed with a different setting?
6. What role does journalism play in *The Mountains Wild*?
7. Maggie and Erin both were drawn to Conor for different reasons. What drew these characters to each other, and how do these relationships shift as the story progresses?
8. The title comes from an Irish song, “Skibbereen.” After taking a listen, does the song affect how you view the book?



### Discussion Questions



MINOTAUR  
BOOKS

9. Given the ending of the story, how do you imagine a woman like Maggie will move forward?
10. In the acknowledgments, the author writes, “In a way, this book is a love letter to Dublin and Ireland, though it’s the twisted kind, where you make terrible things happen in a beloved place.” How, if at all, did *The Mountains Wild* alter your view of Ireland?