



Discussion Questions for *Darling Jim* by Christian Moerk

1. What makes Christian Moerk's storytelling style unique? How were you affected by the novel's innovative structure, which presents Desmond's point of view first, followed by Niall's, before weaving in the girls' voices and the legend of Euan?
2. Why does Niall's artistic vision make him the ideal person to receive Fiona's diary? What might they have thought of each other if they had met when she was alive?
3. What were your first impressions of Fiona when you began reading her words? How did her true self compare to the image of her that was inferred by the police?
4. How did your sympathies shift as you learned more about the Walsh sisters' secrets? How did their early years, and their parents' death, affect the way they handled adversity?
5. Discuss Fiona's impressions of Jim when she meets him in chapter three. Are sex appeal and storytelling the only traits that make him "darling"? Would you have been drawn to someone like him? Would you have cheated on Finbar? (C'mon, be honest!)
6. How would you describe the relationship between Fiona, Aiofe, and Róisín? How do they compare to your siblings?
7. The girls kept diaries during their captivity before they knew they would be read by anybody. Do you think that sustained them as they waited for the end? Do you think they kept diaries when they were children? And do you keep a diary? If so, why?
8. How early do you think Aunt Moira caught on to Jim's wicked ways? And do you believe that loving someone to that degree can make them forgive even the worst of crimes?
9. What gave Fiona and Róisín the ability to conquer their aunt in death? How did storytelling save them in the end?
10. Did you predict that Euan would slay Aisling, or love her? Reread the novel's closing lines. Which triumphs more often—love or death?