

"A deeply humane and genre-defying work of love and
uncompromising hope." —OCEAN VUONG

WANDERING SOULS

a Novel

CECILE PIN

**BOOK
CLUB
KIT**





Welcome to the Book Club Kit for **WANDERING SOULS**



Please note: In order to provide book clubs with the most informed and thought-provoking questions possible, it is necessary to reveal aspects of the story, as well as the ending. If you have not finished reading *Wandering Souls*, you may want to wait before reviewing this guide.



1. Which character did you relate to, or empathize with, the most?
2. What did you think of the use of Dao's voice as a plot device?
3. How do the varied narrative techniques the author employs impact the novel? Why do you think the author chose this method of storytelling?
4. Anh's decision to tell the immigration office, "It's just us," means the siblings don't make it to the United States and are relegated to life in England. What alternate fates do you imagine for Anh, Minh and Thanh, had they gone to the US?
5. During a pivotal conversation with Tom, Anh declares "It doesn't feel right to enjoy myself while they're buried in some unknown plot in Hong Kong." And Tom "did not balk, just said, "You know it's not your fault though, right?" How does this acknowledgement of "her fears and the grief and the guilt that he saw and Hoang lodged in every corner of her mind" allow her to move forward?
6. What do Jane's mental health struggles and engagement with her mother's family history reveal about the spoken and unspoken transmission of legacies through generations?

7. What does the novel expose about history and war by highlighting The US military's operations in Vietnam including Operation Wandering Souls and Margaret Thatcher's policies toward refugees from Vietnam?
8. How are the ways the siblings grapple with their profound loss the same and different?
9. How does the book's title work in relation to the book's contents? If you could give the book a new title, what would it be?
10. What does Jane mean when she writes "We fill in the gaps. We find stories in every little moment and gather them up readily. We imagine that the unknown isn't the worst scenario and we try to make sense of the senseless. We look for the silver linings and the whys and what-if and what-should-have-beens. We try to solve the puzzle, pieces scattered through time and space and the deepest corners of our memories?"



CECILE PIN grew up in Paris and New York City. She moved to London at eighteen to study philosophy at University College London and received an MA at King's College London. She writes for *Bad Form Review*, was long-listed for their Young Writers' Prize, and is a 2021 London Writers Award winner. *Wandering Souls* is her first novel.

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