



BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

1. *Narrow Escapes* is comprised of two journeys: one is external—adventure, visiting new places and being part of groups of young people hitchhiking across the globe. The other journey is internal. Louise must deal with the trauma from a childhood incident so she can learn to love without fear. How does Louise interweave these two stories?
2. Louise suffers from panic attacks when she finishes college and starts an independent life. Though this took place in the late 60's and early 70's what are some ways that her anxiety is similar to what twenty-year olds' face today?
3. Louise is also trying to find her path in life. What is her passion? How is it portrayed in the book?
4. Though Louise longs to be in an intimate relationship, what gets in the way of her finding enduring love? What must she learn about herself?

5. Even though Louise has a deep sense of insecurity about the world, she takes a lot of risks by hitchhiking and some experimenting with drugs. How does the time period of the late sixties and early seventies affect her choices?

6. Many young people must separate from their parents to find their authentic self. What are some challenges for Louise as she leaves home to start a new life in California? And what are the challenges in choosing to become a poet?

7. Reproductive rights are being challenged today. When Louise came of age, the birth control pill became available for the first time. How did that affect her life?

8. What are some of the most suspenseful parts of the book for you and why?

9. The book is also a mother/daughter story. How does Louise feel about her mother in the beginning and in the end of the book?

10. What is your favorite scene and why?

11. What are some of the similarities as to what was happening in the book politically, like the Civil Rights Movement and the anti-war movement as to what is happening today?

12. Why is the book titled Narrow Escapes?