

PLAY THE FOOL

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Marley and Katie have a very special relationship, despite only knowing each other a short time. Do you have a Marley in your life? How does your relationship differ to Marley and Katie's?
2. What were your initial theories about Marley's death and disappearance? Who was your first suspect and why?
3. Do you think Marley's motives for keeping her true identity secret from Katie redeem her? Would you have been able to forgive her if you were in Katie's position? Why or why not?
4. Katie's skills as a tarot card reader are central to the story. Do you read tarot? Or have you ever had your cards read? If so, what was your experience like?
5. Early on, Katie quotes Rosie's advice: "Don't read the cards, read the person." Discuss the meaning of this quote and its importance in the story. How does Katie "read" each suspect in Marley's murder?
6. According to Katie, drawing The Fool card means "you're like everybody else . . . you don't have all the answers. You make mistakes." Discuss how this theme presents itself throughout the story. What mistakes are made and by whom? How do they impact the events of the plot?
7. Have you ever felt, like Katie, burdened by the expectations of your family or friends? How do you handle these expectations? Why do you think Katie reacted the way she did?
8. Like most sisters, Katie and Jessie argue, but their relationship is still based in love. What do you make of their reconciliation at the end story? Which sister do you relate to the most?
9. Katie makes a lot of unexpected choices throughout the novel. Were you surprised by any of her actions? What would you have done differently if you were in Katie's position?
10. What do you make of Katie and Jamie's relationship? In what ways do they help each other throughout the novel?