

The Sheep Walker's Daughter

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are you drawn to or repelled by any particular character in the book? Do any of the characters resemble people you know?
2. What are some of the book's themes you responded to (for example, family secrets, generational differences, spiritual, journey, etc.)?
3. How would you describe the relationship between Dee and her mother? In what ways are mother and daughter alike? How are they different? Do you think there was any love between them?
4. Valerie had not been home for months, yet she was surprised and upset that her mother didn't tell her about her grandmother's illness. Why do you think Dee chose not to tell Valerie her grandmother was dying?
5. Leora shared secrets about her life with Valerie she refused to share with her daughter. Why? Valerie didn't seem as interested in Leora's Greek heritage, or her own father Henry's family. Why do you think she is so fascinated with Alonso's Spanish (Basque) connection?
6. Iban reached out to Dee after Leora died and was willing to talk about her father. Why do you think he was not willing to reveal she has a twin sister? Do you know of any similar situation, where a family has kept the existence of a family member a secret?
7. What is the relationship between Dee's spiritual journey and her quest? What role does Father Mike play? Have you ever had a Father Mike in your life?
8. Father Mike tells Dee to give up something that does not serve her well and go after something she wants. What does she give up? What does she get? Have you ever done something similar?
9. Alaya knew about Dee, and she knew how to get in touch with her. She could have written a letter to her sister. Why do you think she never did?
10. Alaya advises Valerie to decide between choosing a man and choosing a life. What does she mean? Do you think this is good advice? Have you ever had to make a decision like that?

11. How does Dee's relationship with her daughter Valerie change throughout the story?

12. Why does Dee push Roger away? At the end of the book, what keeps Dee and Roger apart? Do you have any reason to think they might get together again?