

GOLDEN LIES –READER'S GUIDE

1. The father-daughter relationship is explored in great detail in Golden Lies. Paige and her father, David, work together every day, yet she yearns for a stronger emotional connection. They are always in close physical proximity, but they don't connect on a deep level. David, in fact, has a stronger emotional tie to the daughter that died, Elizabeth.

Do you think David was so affected by the death of his first daughter that he put up barriers around his heart? Was that why he couldn't connect with Paige? Or was it just his personality or maybe his selfishness that kept distance between them? What kind of relationship do you have with your father?

2. The other father-daughter relationship is the one between David and Alyssa. With Alyssa, he has been completely absent as a father, not giving of himself in any way except offering some financial support to her mother.

Despite her anger and resentment, Alyssa still wants to know her father. Should she forgive him for not being her father, for not offering more than some token financial support? Should she let him into her life? How would you react in such a situation? Would you be able to forgive a man who ignored you for twenty years? Or is the father-daughter relationship too important to ignore?

3. Culture and ethnic roles also play a part in Golden Lies. Alyssa has a foot in two different worlds, yet doesn't feel like she belongs to either one. She turns her back on her Asian roots because of the way her mother is treated by the family and because they don't really accept her. But in doing so, she doesn't really accept herself for who she is.

Do you think Alyssa is wrong to deny a part of her ethnicity? How do you feel about people getting involved with someone outside of their race? Is it fair to the children who are then half of one race and half of another? Or does everyone become more understanding when ethnic lines are blurred?

4. The three grandfathers met during World War II. Lee Chen saved Ned and Wallace. The three of them stumbled upon a crate of priceless artifacts and took them out of China. The world was at war and everyone was trying to survive. They saw the treasure as their future.

What do you think of this unlikely trio of friends becoming partners in crime? Does the fact that they almost died during the war make their theft understandable if not okay?

5. A legend and a curse are attached to the dragons. It appears that every first daughter is cursed.

Was An-Mei justified in trying to destroy the dragons and break the curse? Do you believe in curses? Is history transported through objects? Have you ever felt a connection to the past when holding a historical object and thinking about those who have held that object before?

6. Paige and Riley not only fall in love with each other but also bring their families back together. But with this new family, Paige has to deal with the reality of having a stepsister, and his reality actually forces Paige to grow as a person, to stand up to her parents and her grandfather, to stand up for her sister.

How would you feel if you suddenly discovered that one of your parents had another biological child? Would you want a relationship with that sibling?

7. What was your favorite part of Golden Lies? Which character did you enjoy reading about the most?

I hope these questions provoke some interesting discussion! Happy Reading!

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