

Reading group questions: *A Life Between Us* by Louise Walters

A Life Between Us begins with a prologue and ends with an epilogue. How do you feel about these devices? Do they add to the novel, or take something away?

One strand of the novel is told via the protagonist's childhood letters. Did you enjoy this aspect (which one reviewer described as a strength of the novel), or did they distract from the narrative?

A Life Between Us switches between two converging timelines, in addition to the protagonist's childhood letters of the 1970s. Did you find the story easy to follow? Or was it confusing?

Did you particularly like, or dislike, any of the characters? The villain of the piece is Lucia, but is she all bad? Do you sympathise with her at all? The hero is Tina... but is she always entirely likeable?

How did you feel about Meg? Did she "really" appear as a ghost, or did she live only in Tina's imagination? Did you like her? Was she annoying? Frightening?

On page 206, Lucia reflects that Meg is not the ideal playmate for Tina. Do you agree?

What did you think of the male characters, who were really in "supporting roles"? - Keaton, Edward, William. Did they ring true? Were they too good to be true? Did any of their actions surprise you? Was anything out of character? If so, how do we define "out of character"?

It's notoriously hard for adult authors to capture the voices of childhood. Did this novel succeed?

What did you think were the central themes of the novel? Guilt, love, redemption, revenge, family, friendship - all of these crop up. Were they handled well?