Where Have All Our Daughters Gone Book Club Discussion Questions

1. Kate is obviously the narrator of the book, but do you feel she attempts to sway the readers to her point of view? Do you think Kate is a victim or a victor?
2. At the close of the first chapter, Kate ponders the decisions she made as a young woman when it states, “I didn’t want my life to have a story already written before I even began to live it; I guess I just wanted a different story.” Who or what do you feel may have contributed to Kate wanting a different life?
3. Mitchell had flaws from the day Kate met him, but why was she attracted to him? Do you feel Mitchell ever cared about Kate?
4. Mitchell’s childhood and teenage background is only briefly touched upon, but how do you feel it may have shaped his nature as an adult? Why or why not?
5. Why do you feel Kate continued to stay with Mitchell despite his verbal and physical abuse to her? Why did she stay even after he tried to smoother Julianna?
6. Most women stay in abusive relationships because they feel they have no options, but Kate clearly had options. Do you feel that despite the socio-economic level of abused women, many still have a challenging time leaving their abusers?
7. What is your view of the attorneys in the book? Do you think they cared about their clients, winning, or the financial rewards?
8. Why do you think the judge, the guardian litem and Dr. Cane ignored and dismissed Kate’s pleas about Mitchell’s abusive behaviors? Why do you feel they so casually disregarded his abuse to Josie even after he admitted to doing it?
9. How would you have reacted in Kate’s place during the legal proceedings? She held her ground on a matter of principle, but if she would have “played along with the game,” and not voiced her opinions too loudly, do you think she would have ever lost custody?
10. How did you feel when Kate was ultimately held in contempt of court and was incarcerated? Would Kate’s experience have been different if she had not met and become friends with Martha?
11. Do you feel Kate had a legitimate claim for asylum? Would she had been granted full asylum if she had gone to another country other than England?
12. Kate asks Clay for a divorce, but he is reluctant despite all the stress. Do you think most men would have stayed by Kate’s side or left?
13. Did the book change your opinion or perspective about anything? Do you feel differently than you did prior to reading the book?
14. There are references to many songs throughout the book, and songs have a universal appeal. Do you feel those songs enabled the readers to better identify with Kate and her life?
15. If the book were adapted into a movie, who would you want to see play the roles of the main characters, and why?