CALL OFF THE DARK

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. In what ways does the book balance the tension and suspense of a thriller with the emotional depth and vulnerability of a love story? Was there anything surprising to you about the blending of genres?

2. Have you ever been tempted to make a drastic life change and start over? Did Helen's decision to remarry and move off-grid feel understandable to you or not?

3. How does Helen's love for Tyler drive her actions and decisions throughout the book? Do you see her love as empowering, destructive, or a mix of both, and why?

4. Grief is a prominent theme in the book. How do Helen and Wade process grief and trauma differently, and what does this reveal about their personalities? Whose coping mechanisms felt most relatable to you?

5. When Isaac first arrives, what is your gut reaction to him—and how much do you trust that instinct? How do your feelings toward him evolve over the course of the story, and what drives that change?

6. How is the tradwife lifestyle depicted in the novel? Does the book critique, romanticize, or offer a balanced view of it? How does the lifestyle shape the power dynamic between Helen and Wade?

7. The novel uses physical intimacy to reveal what's happening beneath the surface of the relationships. Which moments felt most revealing or most uncomfortable, and what do they expose about Helen and her relationships?

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8. If someone close to you insisted that another person was a ghost, how would you respond? Would your reaction depend more on your existing beliefs, or on your trust in the person making the claim? What would it take for you to believe them?

9. How does loneliness drive the characters' actions, and where does it cross the line into obsession? In your own experience, when does longing for connection become something more consuming?

10. Does Helen's connection to the woods and its wildness soothe and ground her, or does it leave her feeling more untethered? How do natural spaces affect you—do they bring comfort, or can they make you feel more alone?

11. For Helen, is poetry a tool for understanding or a form of escape? In your own life, can turning to art or language sometimes illuminate difficult truths, or help you avoid them? Are there specific poems or lines in the book that resonated with you?

12. How do you interpret Agnes's role in Helen's life? In what ways does she serve as a source of support or challenge for Helen at different moments in the story?

13. What did the raven come to represent to you by the end, and did that meaning shift over time?

14. Given the ending, what do you see next for Helen? How did the book's final moment make you feel?

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Want to step into the world of *Call Off the Dark* through music?

Visit Hallie's Spotify to listen to some of the songs that immersed her in the story as she wrote the novel:

Hallieshepherd.com/spotify

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