



The Little Paris Bookshop (2015)

By Nina George



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Discussion questions taken from *LitLovers*

1. "Memories are like wolves. You can't lock them away and hope they leave you alone." The Little Paris Bookshop begins when Monsieur Perdu opens the room he's kept sealed off for two decades. What are your first impressions of Perdu, and do you think he's justified in shutting out the past?
2. "Perdu reflected that it was a common misconception that booksellers looked after books. They looked after people." Monsieur Perdu helps countless people find books that heal them. In your life, have you ever felt that a book restored you to yourself? If there was a Literary Apothecary where you lived, would you visit?
3. In Chapter 3, Perdu refuses to sell a copy of Max Jordan's *Night* to a customer, because he feels it would upset her. How would you react if this happened to you? Is there such thing as a dangerous book?
4. On their journey South, Perdu forges a powerful friendship with both Max and Cuneo. What do the three characters teach each other?
5. The death of the deer is an emotionally charged scene that serves to ignite something within Perdu. What do you think it represented for the three men?
6. We come to know Manon through Perdu's account of her, and her travel diary. What did you think of her as a character? Do you believe it is possible to love more than one person at once, as she does?
7. In Chapter 32, Samy says there are three kinds of love: sexual love, logical love, and a love that "comes from your chest or your solar plexus, or somewhere in between." What do you think she means by this, and do you agree?
8. The time to mourn, or "hurting time," becomes important for nearly every character in *The Little Paris Bookshop*. Do you believe a period of grieving is necessary when a loved one is lost? Does it depend on the circumstances in which they left your life?
9. Perdu finally arrives in Bonnieux, where he asks Manon's husband Luc for forgiveness. Does Luc provide Perdu with the sense of closure he lacks? Does Perdu offer anything to Luc?
10. The text that is perhaps most vital to Perdu's emotional journey is Sanary's *Southern Lights*. Were you surprised to discover the author's true identity? Why or why not?

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11. The novel includes pages from Manon’s journal, letters between Perdu and Catherine, recipes, and a reading list. Did these artifacts make your reading experience a richer one?

12. Love and friendship, the power of stories to heal—of these, what do you think this novel is most about?

(Questions issued by the publisher.)

Author Bio:



- Birth—August 30, 1973
- Where—Bielfeld, Germany
- Education—high school
- Awards—(see below)
- Currently—lives in Concarneau, France

Nina George is a German writer, most recently known as the author of *The Little Paris Bookshop* (2015), an international bestseller, that has been translated in more than 28 languages. All told, she has published more than 25 books (novels, mysteries and non-fiction), as well as over one hundred short stories.

As a cop reporter, columnist and managing editor, George has also published more than 600 columns. She has worked as a for a wide range of publications, including *Hamburger Abendblatt*, *Die Welt*, *Der Hamburger*, as well as *TV Movie* and *Federwelt*.

Read Alikes:

The bookshop by Penelope Fitzgerald

The bookshop on the corner by Jenny Colgan

The uncommon reader by Alan Bennett



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