

## Discussion Guide for *Wren Island* by Laura Joy Lloyd

### Questions from Part 1

1. Allison talks out loud to her dogs. Have you ever known someone who did this?
2. “You can do anything if you put your mind to it.” Do you agree?
3. A desire to do something important drives Allison, yet she doesn’t seem to know quite what that looks like for her. Can you identify with her feelings?
4. After she couldn’t see real whales as clearly as she wanted to, Amelia imagined having an extraordinary encounter with orcas. Have you ever been disappointed about an actual life experience, then imagined how it could have gone better?
5. The hydrophone on Wren Island is based on real hydrophones in the Salish Sea. If you were visiting Wren Island and heard the gong ring, what would you do?
6. Allison’s aunts arrive unannounced. If you were in Allison’s situation, how would you respond?

### Questions from Part 2

7. When Macy shares about life as a recovering alcoholic, she admits to feeling relieved about being surrounded by “safe” people. She also admits to being “mostly annoyed with herself.” Can you identify with any of these feelings?
8. Shasta pushes Hack as a romantic interest for Allison. Do you think this would be a good match? Why or why not?
9. Overwhelmed Allison misses her independence and the sense of being an individual. She feels like she’s “getting lost in all the clutter.” Have you ever felt this way?
10. Allison fears making the same mistakes she did in previous relationships. Do you think this fear is affecting how she approaches her current relationships? If so, in what ways?
11. When Allison borrows a motorbike from an acquaintance, she justifies it by pointing to how islanders often band together to share resources. If you were in Allison’s situation, do you think you would have felt comfortable borrowing the motorbike? Why or why not?

### Questions from Part 3

12. After a harrowing experience, Amelia worries Macy won’t allow her to walk alone on the beach anymore. Do you think that level of concern is warranted?
13. While Allison is missing, Macy regrets making certain comments. She also regrets not being more encouraging to Allison. Have you ever second-guessed your relationship with someone you love, especially when they’re not around?

14. At the commune, Amelia learns about simplifying her wardrobe, reducing the need for plastic packaging, and the risk of entanglement from fishing gear. What are your thoughts about these ideas?
15. Macy uses peaceful imagery to help her fall asleep. Does this surprise you? Why or why not?
16. During a conversation with Virgil, Amelia wonders if he might be worried about Allison. Do you think he is?
17. How do you feel about Allison's experience at the end of this part?

#### **Questions from Part 4**

18. While recovering from her accident, Allison notes her changing relationship with Macy. In what ways do you think their relationship is getting stronger? In what ways might their relationship be getting more complicated?
19. Allison's relationship with Virgil is changing, too. What do you think it will take for Allison to trust Virgil?
20. Amelia's recording of the bald eagle taking its first flight was supposed to be kept private, yet Hack could view it. What do you think Hack is up to?
21. What do you think Shasta and Ralph are up to?
22. Amelia's experience finding whole sand dollars was not what she expected. Were you surprised by the way she responded? Why or why not?

#### **Questions from Part 5**

23. Macy isn't acting like her usual self. What do you think might be going on?
24. Do you think Allison knows about the mice?
25. Amelia's showing great ingenuity. She's creating social media videos, crafting seashell wreaths, volunteering at the rehab aviary, and finding her own way around. Yet one wrong turn throws her completely off track. Have you ever experienced anything like this?
26. Allison feels burdened by all the information she needs to keep secret. Do you think it's reasonable to expect Allison to carry this burden on her own? Do you think she should talk about it with someone? Who?
27. Do you think Allison can trust Ralph? Why or why not?
28. How do you feel about what happened at the end of this part? What are you happy about? What are you worried about?

#### **Questions from Part 6**

29. Allison makes assumptions about how Virgil would approach a romantic relationship, then finds out she's wrong. How do you think she should respond?

30. Amelia wants to live a more independent life. What are some ideas for how she could reach this goal?
31. Ralph's come up with a convoluted plan to help a family in need while leaving his Wren Island responsibilities to a friend. Do you think Allison should be cautious about getting involved?
32. Macy is dead-set against returning to the place where her alcoholism began. Do you think she's right to hold her ground? What other options might she consider?
33. How do you feel about the relationship between Allison and Virgil? Do you think it will last?

Find more fun stuff about *Wren Island* on the author's website!

<https://www.laurajoylloyd.com/>