



The author has said that one of her favorite lines of all time came from Dolly Parton's character in *Steel Magnolias*: "Laughter through tears is my favorite emotion." Where, in *Missing Isaac*, did you see a mix of sorrow and laughter?

What, for you, is the strongest divider in the book—race or social class?

Have you ever experienced or witnessed the kind of overt racial divides described in the book?

What does Pete's friendship with Isaac say about those divides?

Have you ever experienced or witnessed the kind of class/socioeconomic divides described in the book?

What does Pete's relationship with Dovey say about that? What about Lila's relationship with John?

Why is Miss Paul so bound and determined to keep her family in the hollow and keep everyone else out? In other words, what drives her?

The author has said that she considers Dovey and her father to be opposite sides of the same coin. What do you think she means by that?

Why do you think Ned Ballard helped Isaac's sister and mother, but not Isaac himself?

What made the story believable/authentic for you?

What distracted from authenticity?

Which scene do you wish you could step into?

True confession: The author originally wasn't going to have a romantic relationship between John and Lila. She thought they should remain good friends. Another writer friend told her NO WAY!!! What do you think of those two possibilities—romance versus friendship—for Lila and John?

What did you take away from *Missing Isaac*?