



Book Club Questions  
Keeper of Lost Children by Sadeqa Johnson

1. Ethel is driven to find homes for the mixed-race orphaned children, even when it isn't easy. What do you think motivates her - Is she motivated more by compassion or by something she's trying to heal in herself?
2. Ozzie's relationship in Germany sets the course for much of the story. Do you think he made the right choices? How did his background and identity shape the decisions he made?
3. Ozzie forms a deep connection with a German woman, yet later builds a life with Rita back home - and ultimately leaves his daughter behind. How did you feel about the choices he made across those relationships?
4. Sophia discovers a secret that shakes her sense of self. How did she handle that moment, and do you think her reaction felt true to who she was as a character? How might you have responded in her place?
5. Sophia's adoptive parents appeared to need her for farm help rather than out of love, but her mother's decision to let her return to school was surprising. Does this moment change your view of her mother-indicating deeper love, or is it simply an unexpected act of kindness?
6. All three main characters are searching for a sense of belonging in different ways. Which character's journey resonated with you the most, and why?
7. Johnson based Ethel on a real historical figure. Knowing that, did it change how you felt about her as a character?
8. Black soldiers like Ozzie served their country abroad, yet returned home to a society that treated them as second-class citizens. How does the book portray the tension between their military service and the racial inequality they faced both in the army and back in America?
9. The children at the heart of the story are mixed-race, born from relationships between Black American soldiers and German women. How did both the U.S. military and German society respond to these children and their existence?
10. Sophia's story takes place in 1965, right in the middle of the Civil Rights Movement. How does the racial climate of that era shape who she is and how she moves through the world?
11. Do you see connections between the injustices faced by the soldiers in 1948 and the struggles Sophia navigates nearly two decades later - and does the book suggest things had truly changed, or just shifted?
12. Before the connections between Ethel, Ozzie, and Sophia were revealed, did you have any guesses about their links? What clues did Johnson provide, and were you surprised by the outcome or did you foresee it?
13. How did telling three stories across different time periods work for you? Did the structure add to or complicate the experience?

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