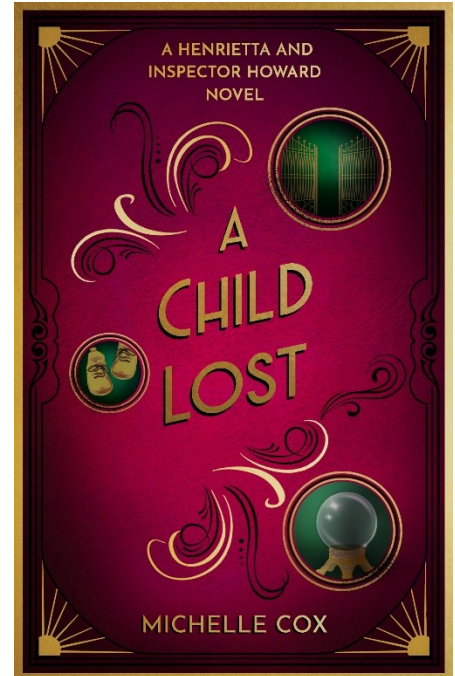


Book Club Discussion Questions for *A Child Lost*

1. Discuss Stanley and Rose's relationship. Do you think she actually loves Stan, or do you think she's using him? Are you more sympathetic to her plight and her actions than you were in the previous books of the series? Is she justified in wanting to marry Stan?
2. Henrietta admits she hasn't always listened to Elsie, yet the sisters repeatedly come through for each other. Which moments in this book best illustrate the strength (or strain) of their bond?
3. At the start, Elsie feels trapped by her grandfather's plans. How do her relationships with Gunther and Anna—and her determination to help them—change her view of self-determination and her future?
4. How do Clive and Henrietta navigate the tension between Henrietta's independence and Clive's protectiveness? Do the events at Dunning ultimately strengthen or strain their marriage?
5. Mrs. Tobin's experience with Madame Pavlovsky exposes her need for comfort, despite her husband's dominance. How does her vulnerability echo Henrietta's own emotional journey?
6. Henrietta becomes intrigued by Madame Pavlovsky's strange pronouncements, while Clive remains skeptical. Did you find Henrietta's openness to the spiritualist's words reasonable, reckless, or something else?
7. Still grieving her miscarriage, Henrietta throws herself into detective work. How does the investigation into Madame Pavlovsky and the search for Liesel Klinkhammer help her cope with her loss and reclaim a sense of purpose?
8. From Gunther's journal to Ida Lynde's past, several characters conceal information. How do these hidden truths drive the plot and reveal deeper aspects of character?
9. Clive begins the story with lingering prejudices from the war, particularly toward Germans. How do his encounters with Gunther, the asylum, and Madame Pavlovsky challenge his assumptions and emotional defenses?
10. With Anna's epilepsy and limited English, what are the ethical challenges in deciding her future? How do the various proposals—Gunther's, Elsie's, the orphanage's—reflect different values and priorities?



11. Joe the orderly observes that “people with money don’t end up here.” How does the novel’s depiction of Dunning Asylum reveal differences in how mental illness was treated—or judged—based on social class? How does this compare to today?
12. Discuss the significance of the title. There are many kinds of “lost children” in this book—can you identify them?