

# Behind the Pages

BOOK CLUB KIT

*Where We Are Not Allowed*

DIANA DIAS BRITO



# A letter to your group

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Dear Reader,

Thank you for making a place for *Where We Are Not Allowed* in your reading group. A story changes when it is spoken about: someone notices a hesitation, someone questions a gesture, and a familiar scene begins to look different.

Adriana and Leon may not mean the same thing to every reader at your table. One of you may recognise care in a moment that another reads as control. You may find yourselves defending a character, then returning to a passage that makes that defence harder.

I hope this kit gives you room to explore those differences. There is no answer sheet waiting at the end. Let the words on the page support your reading, and leave space for the questions the story has not settled.

Thank you for giving this world your time, your attention, and the conversation that continues after the last page.

With gratitude,

*Diana Dias Brito*



# Before the conversation

Adriana returns after three years to a house that seems to have kept a place for her. Familiar rooms offer little certainty. As memory begins to shift, she must question both what she believes about the past and the person who has helped preserve it.

**Threads to follow:** memory and responsibility; protection and control; intimacy and dependence; silence as evidence; the house and lake as keepers of the past.

| Meeting detail         | Your group |
|------------------------|------------|
| Group / host           |            |
| Date and time          |            |
| Location / online link |            |
| Edition being read     |            |

## A FLEXIBLE 60-MINUTE MEETING

| Time      | Conversation                                                  |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0–10 min  | One first impression from each reader.                        |
| 10–35 min | Choose four or five discussion questions from pages 4–6.      |
| 35–50 min | Try the evidence activity on page 7.                          |
| 50–60 min | Share a passage, then name one question you are leaving open. |



# Trust & memory

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SPOILERS: FINISH THE BOOK BEFORE CONTINUING

## 01 THE RETURN

Adriana describes her return as a search for closure. What other motives can you see in her first approach to the house? Which detail first unsettled you?

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## 02 A MEMORY YOU CAN TRUST?

How does the first-person narration shape your confidence in Adriana? Choose a moment when a new detail made you revise an earlier assumption.

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## 03 A ROOM KEPT READY

Leon has preserved Adriana's room and belongings. When did that care feel comforting, possessive, or both? What makes your interpretation persuasive?

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## 04 A WARNING IN HER OWN HAND

Why does finding a warning written in her own handwriting make Adriana less certain? How do you interpret Leon's decision to keep it and let her discover it?

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# Care, control & responsibility

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SPOILERS: FINISH THE BOOK BEFORE CONTINUING

## 05 WHO DECIDES WHAT SHE CAN BEAR?

Leon says he protected Adriana because she asked him to. Where would you place the boundary between supporting her and taking control of her access to the truth?

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## 06 THE KEY IN THE DRAWER

What does the private scene with Leon and the key reveal that Adriana cannot yet see? Does it change how you read his restraint in their conversations?

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## 07 THE MAN BESIDE THE LAKE

How does the unnamed man's presence alter the balance between Adriana and Leon? Find a moment when his silence, rather than his words, changes the scene.

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## 08 REMEMBERING RESPONSIBILITY

When Adriana recalls that she agreed to a plan, how does your understanding of her change? How can the group discuss her responsibility without accepting Leon's account uncritically?

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# Evidence & the ending

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SPOILERS: FINISH THE BOOK BEFORE CONTINUING

## 09 THE HAND SHE WILL NOT RELEASE

When Adriana refuses to release the man she is pulling from the water, what does that choice reveal? Does it change your judgement of her earlier actions, or only of this one?

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## 10 WHAT SURVIVES A VERSION OF EVENTS

Compare the note, the key, the phone and the cut tyre. Which object most strongly challenges a character's account? What does the object establish, and what still requires interpretation?

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## 11 A MESSAGE THAT WIDENS THE STORY

How does the message "She remembers too soon" change the scale of the threat? Which earlier scene would you reread in light of it? Distinguish a theory from a confirmed answer.

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## 12 CHOOSING WHERE TO STAND

Compare Adriana approaching the gate at the beginning with her final steps towards the lake. How has her agency changed? What does the title mean to you after that last scene?

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# Evidence, or interpretation?

SPOILERS: FINISH THE BOOK BEFORE CONTINUING

Work in pairs. Choose an object below and locate a passage about it. Record what the text directly establishes, then offer a possible interpretation. A character's explanation belongs in the second column until you can support it with other evidence.

| Object / chapter or page              | What the text confirms | What we infer / still question |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| The handwritten note<br>Reference:    |                        |                                |
| Leon's key<br>Reference:              |                        |                                |
| The cut tyre<br>Reference:            |                        |                                |
| The final phone message<br>Reference: |                        |                                |

**Change sides.** Pick a moment that one reader sees as protection and another sees as control. Each reader finds a passage that supports the other interpretation. What survives the challenge?

ONE THEORY WE REVISED

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BRING ONE PASSAGE TO THE TABLE

# The passage that stayed

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Before the meeting, choose a short passage that made you pause. During the conversation, invite another reader to explain how they read the same words. Record the difference here.

CHOSEN BY / CHAPTER OR PAGE

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THE PASSAGE

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WHAT I FIRST HEARD IN IT

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WHAT ANOTHER READER HELPED ME NOTICE

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# What happened at our table

DATE / GROUP

| Reader | Rating / 5 | One word after the discussion |
|--------|------------|-------------------------------|
|        |            |                               |
|        |            |                               |
|        |            |                               |
|        |            |                               |
|        |            |                               |
|        |            |                               |
|        |            |                               |

THE SCENE THAT DIVIDED US

A VIEW THAT CHANGED DURING THE MEETING

OUR STRONGEST UNANSWERED QUESTION



# Keep the conversation open

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## START WITH A SCENE, NOT A VERDICT.

Ask each reader to name a moment before deciding whether a character is trustworthy. A passage gives the group something concrete to examine.

## INVITE A DIFFERENT READING.

Try: “Which detail leads you there?” or “Can someone make a case for another interpretation?” Nobody has to persuade the whole table.

## SEPARATE KNOWLEDGE FROM SUSPICION.

Keep a page open for confirmed details, competing interpretations and unresolved questions. The ending invites theories; it does not turn every theory into an answer.

## MAKE ROOM FOR EVERY READER.

Let people finish, invite quieter members without putting them on the spot, and allow anyone to pass. Discuss the characters’ choices without asking for personal experiences.

## ADAPT TO THE EDITION.

Use chapter references or a few opening words rather than page numbers alone. Deluxe readers may also discuss how an illustration changed the emphasis of a scene.

## CLOSE WITH SOMETHING STILL MOVING.

Ask each reader to finish: “I began by thinking... and now I wonder...” Record one unresolved question to take away.



# After the last question

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You may leave this conversation with a different understanding of Adriana and Leon. You may leave with a question you had not noticed before. Both are ways of keeping a story alive.

Thank you for reading closely, listening to one another, and letting the uncertain parts remain uncertain. I hope something from your conversation follows you back to the page.

## OTHER WORLDS TO STEP INTO

### A Whisper Beyond Our Eyes

A romance of desire, vulnerability and the courage to be seen.

### After the Alarms

A dark medical thriller set inside St. Gabriel Medical Center.

### Entre Dois Mundos

Fiction in Portuguese. Available in paperback.

## THE QUIET RUIN SERIES WILL CONTINUE IN BOOK TWO

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