

## BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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# BEFORE SHE FINDS ME

by Heather Chavez

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1. Ren follows a moral code she learned from her father: *Defend the family. Shield the innocent. Kill the guilty.* Do you believe there's ever a moral reason to harm another person? If you had to choose a mantra to live by, what would it be?
2. Because of past experiences, Julia avoids crowds, varies her route home, and googles incessantly. How do Julia's experience shape her role as a mother? Do you have any habits influenced by your own childhood?
3. Julia and Ren both have complicated relationships with their fathers. How are these relationships alike? How are they different?
4. Julia and Ren share a love of plants, which leads Julia toward botany and Ren toward poisons. How does this shared interest connect the women? What are some of your own hobbies or passions, and how have they influenced your life choices?
5. When we meet Ren, she's shopping for a gun holster to accommodate her pregnancy. What kind of parent do you think Ren would be? How does becoming a mother change her approach to her job?

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6. Julia develops such a close relationship with Cordelia that she names her daughter after her. What do you think makes this a defining relationship for Julia?

7. Ren has a penchant for asking philosophical questions, such as, *What do you think it means to live a good life?* and *What do you think is more important—intention or outcome?* How do you think Ren would answer her own questions? How would you?

8. Do you have a favorite plant, whether it's an herb, a flower, or something else?

9. Especially towards the end of the book, but throughout as well, many secrets were revealed. Which revelations particularly surprised you? How do you feel about the ending?

10. Who did you find yourself rooting for as you read, and did your allegiances change? What do you think moved you to root for one character over another?