**The Roanoke Girls
by Amy Engel**

**About the Book**

After her mother's suicide, fifteen year-old Lane Roanoke came to live with her grandparents and fireball cousin, Allegra, on their vast estate in rural Kansas. Lane knew little of her mother's mysterious family, but she quickly embraced life as one of the rich and beautiful Roanoke girls. But when she discovered the dark truth at the heart of the family, she ran…fast and far away.

Eleven years later, Lane is adrift in Los Angeles when her grandfather calls to tell her Allegra has gone missing. Did she run too? Or something worse? Unable to resist his pleas, Lane returns to help search, and to ease her guilt at having left Allegra behind. Her homecoming may mean a second chance with the boyfriend whose heart she broke that long ago summer. But it also means facing the devastating secret that made her flee, one she may not be strong enough to run from again.

As it weaves between Lane’s first Roanoke summer and her return,*The Roanoke Girls* shocks and tantalizes, twisting its way through revelation after mesmerizing revelation, exploring the secrets families keep and the fierce and terrible love that both binds them together and rips them apart.

**About the Author**:

Amy Engel is the author of THE BOOK OF IVY young adult series. A former criminal defense attorney, she lives in Missouri with her family. THE ROANOKE GIRLS is her first novel for adults.

**If you enjoyed this book*:***

* The Wife Between Us by Greer Hendricks
* Girl in Snow by Danya Kukafka
* The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah
* Then She Was Gone by Lisa Jewell
* The Perfect Mother by Aimee Molloy

**Discussion Questions**

1. Discuss the structure of the novel. Do you think it worked? Would you have preferred it to be set up differently?
2. Does the author ratchet up the **suspense**? Did you find yourself anxious—quickly turning pages to learn what happened?
3. At what point did you know what was really going on between Allegra (and the other girls) and her grandfather? Did you see it coming, or was it a surprise? Were there red herrings (false clues) to throw you off the track? Were there hidden clues? Did you find the hidden clues, or were you oblivious to them?
4. The novel is set in a very small town. What do you think this adds to the story? Do you think the story would be as believable in a larger community?
5. Discuss the relationship between Lane and Allegra. Do you think it is healthy or dysfunctional?
6. What were the dynamics of power between the characters? (Lane/Allegra, Lane/her grandfather, Lane/her grandmother, Lane/her mother, etc.) How did that play a role in their interactions, and in the course of the story?
7. What scene was the most pivotal for the book? How would the story have been different if that scene had not taken place?
8. Did you think that the ending of the book was appropriate? If not, how would you liked to have seen it play out differently?
9. What do you think the future holds for Lane?
10. Are there certain **passages** in the book—ideas, descriptions, or dialogue—that you found interesting or revealing...or that somehow struck you? What lines, if any, made you stop and think?