



Book Club Questions

Strangers In Time by David Baldacci

1. World War II is such a pivotal moment in history for the world, and it's one that everyone learns about. But was there something you discovered that you were unaware of while reading *Strangers in Time*? If yes, what was it and how did it change your perspective of the war?
2. In times of crisis, it's not about your circumstances prior that determine how you'll survive, it's the choices you make and the people around you. How do you think Charlie, Molly, and Ignatius would have fared if they hadn't met each other?
3. Molly was sent to the countryside at the start of the war, but when she returns, she finds both of her parents gone and a city that no longer looks as she remembers it. Was there ever a time in your life where everything you knew changed? How did you get through that period in your life?
4. Charlie has found himself alone in this dangerous world and he has a hard time trusting others. Why do you think he finally opened up to Molly and Ignatius? Was there ever a moment where you had to take the leap and put your trust in someone new? How did you let go and let that person in?
5. Ignatius sat every day wanting to finish his late wife's novel, but couldn't find the right words to type. How did his grief hold him back, not just in writing the novel, but in living his life, especially during such a harrowing time when one needs to embrace every moment they have?
6. By the end of the book, Charlie and Molly have a bond that has stayed strong, even as the years have gone by and they've created their own families away from each other. Who in your life holds a similar place in your heart and is someone you can return to, time and time again, no matter where your separate lives take you?
7. How did you feel when you learned the truth about Ignatius' wife and her activities? Did it make you think differently about Ignatius himself?
8. Charlie, Molly, and Ignatius all feel an intense need to contribute to the war efforts, whether it's Charlie wanting to enlist to fight the Nazis, Molly putting her nursing skills to use, or Ignatius being a warden who helps guide Londoners to bomb shelters and assists those injured. But there doesn't have to be war for someone to want to contribute to something important. What's something that you're passionate about and you strive to make better in the world?
9. Molly and Charlie come from very different socioeconomic worlds; he's an East End lad with very little, while the West End Molly grew up in luxury. The novel shows that war can render what one materially possesses meaningless. What lessons can readers draw from this on a personal level?
10. The title *Strangers in Time* alludes to people who didn't know one another, surreptitiously coming together just in the nick of time, to allow them to be supportive of one another in getting through the war. Have you met someone during a difficult time in your life whom you felt made a positive difference? And if you had not met that person how different would your life have been?
11. Charlie and Molly are still children in the novel, but they have to grow up very quickly and act more like adults. Have you ever had life situations that forced you to do something similar? What do you think the pros and cons of having to do that are?
12. Molly and Charlie have remained lifelong friends, but friendships of that nature change over time. Do you have friendships of a long-term nature and how have they evolved as the years have gone by?
13. The novel speaks to the ability of people to adapt to almost any situation, in this case years of bombing, death and destruction. How do you think going through such an ordeal may change people? Will it make them less trusting, more independent, more, or less, cynical, or more confident in their abilities to weather any storm?

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