



OBJECT: A Memoir

Kristin Louise Duncombe

Book Club Questions

1. Kristin Louise Duncombe writes about being part of the Embassy community as akin to a parent-child relationship. *"Ask the Embassy" or "We better tell the Embassy" was as common parlance as "Ask Mom" or "We better tell Dad."* It was as though the Embassy itself was running the show. Like Dorothy, the Lion, and the Tin Man, who believed the Wizard of Oz to be the only one capable of solving their problems, the Embassy trained people to not look for outside solutions. Not only did the Embassy determine housing, neighborhood, and how long you got to stay, it was also in charge of the minutiae of daily life, such as changing lightbulbs and hanging artwork. How do you think this dynamic influenced the outcome of events when one of the diplomats was exposed as a pedophile?
2. Did you have any preconceptions about childhood sexual abuse survivors prior to reading OBJECT? How has your understanding of victims, perpetrators, or sexual abuse itself changed, if at all?
3. Were you surprised to find parts of Kristin's memoir very funny? How do you think the author uses humor to describe her growth? Do you think humor is an essential part of recovering from trauma?
4. What did you think of Liam's idea of forming a "League of Gentleman?" Do you think this would ever be possible if organized carefully?
5. Did you relate to Kristin's struggle to draw boundaries with men? How has this struggle manifested in your life?
6. How do you think society has evolved since the 1980s when Kristin's story took place?
7. Did the book end the way you thought it would?