

## Book Club: The Things We Cannot Say by Kelly Rimmer

### About the Author

Kelly Rimmer is the best selling author of 5 books.  
She lives in rural Australia.

### About the book

The Things We Cannot Say is the story of a present day woman who must uncover her Polish grandmother's past from WWII. The story is told from both of their perspectives.

I loved both storylines.

I loved the struggle with raising a special needs child and seeing the strain that it puts on a family. I loved the idea that Eddie and Alina cannot communicate, but also Alina has a past that she never could speak about.

### Main Characters

Alice  
Eddie  
Alina (grandma)  
Tomasz  
Saul  
Wade (current day husband)

### Questions for Kelly

- This book was a bit personal for you. Can you share how your own family history lead you to write this story?
- Do you have a personal connection with children with special needs?
- Where were you when you wrote this book?
- Who is your favorite character in the book?
- Was there a part of the book that you had to rewrite?
- What did you edit out of this book?
- Did you know the end of the book before you started writing?

Generic on books...

- What is a book you wish you could read again for the first time?
- What is the last book that made you cry?
- Do you have a favorite author?

### Questions for Lisa Harper and others joining in live

- Who was your favorite character?
- Do you have a favorite moment from the book?
- Which storyline were you more engaged in, Alice's or Alina's?



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### **My favorite moments...**

- The idea that Alice has to leave her family to do something important for herself. I think her marriage and her children and her own sanity needed for her to have something to draw her away.
- The tension in their marriage is so well written.
  - When Alice is trying to connect with Wade but starts to get defensive instead of becoming vulnerable.
  - When she starts arguing with Wade because things seem to be falling apart at home and she starts saying mean things but then the narrator says "it's the disappointment speaking." Have you ever had an out of body experience during an argument but you can't stop yourself from saying the wrong things.
- The idea that Saul and Alina made so many sacrifices for their family.

I love how fiction causes you to think and process in such a disarming way.

### **The End**

- Did you like the twist with the ending?
- Did you think Saul and Alina should have stayed together?
- Do you think they should have told the truth about who they were to their family? Why do you think they didn't?

### **Closing details**

- keychain! \$5
  - hollyfurtick.com for t-shirt and mug
  - Next book...
- Are You Sleeping by Kathleen Barber
- Next date...
- Tuesday November 5th 8pm
- I will do a swipe up for the book and the keychain

