

Discussion Questions *Peg's Story - Detours*

In the book:

1. Peg knows virtually nothing about sex when the story begins. Today, it seems like it would be difficult for teens to be that ignorant – but are they getting the information they need? Do they talk with their parents?
2. Peg blames herself for everything that happened at the frat house. Was it her fault?
3. Peg doesn't believe she can tell her parents about what happened at the frat house and later decides she can't go home. What do you think would have happened if she had talked to her parents in the first place? What if she did go home? If she told her parents what had happened in Harrisburg?
4. What do you think of Charlie at the beginning? When you find out he's married? When they go north? When he realizes the age difference?
5. Peg loses touch with people who have helped her. What keeps her drifting?
6. She's experienced a series of traumatic events along the way. Does she have undiagnosed PTSD? How common do you think that may be in women? What are the symptoms?
7. What resources do you have locally that deal with trafficking and other abuses?

Additional:

- Read Behind the Story in the book (or find it on the [Media](#) page). Statistics say 1 out of 4 women will be raped some time in their life, most of them by someone they know. Their lives often change course dramatically. Estimates are that only 2% are reported.
- Near the end, Peg says “We’ve learned that most people only need to know who we are now, not how we got here. TMI, too much information, will make most people uncomfortable.” If 20-25% of women are raped at some point, why are people uncomfortable? Because it *is* so common? Because we blame the victim?
- Expand the discussion on #2. When is it rape? What if they're both drunk? Does she have to say “no” – at what point? Do we still expect boys to have trouble stopping and blame the girl if it goes too far? Or have attitudes really changed?
- If you're in a group, how many of you have been raped or “taken advantage of” as we used to say? You can do a secret ballot if people aren't comfortable being that open. See if those statistics hold true.

The weekly newsletter caters to readers and writers: sherimcguinn.substack.com

Review links for *Peg's Story: Detours*

www.amazon.com/dp/1942069022/

www.goodreads.com/book/show/56630292

Every review helps. *Thanks for reading!*