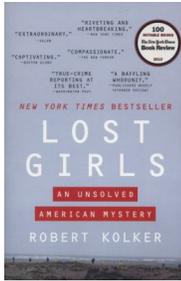# Books by the Stack

Lost Girls: An Unsolved American Mystery by Robert Kolker

Working closely with the victim's families, this tragic account details the lives and deaths of the five women – prostitutes who advertised on Craigslist – who were victims of the Long Island serial killer, the most skillful and accomplished psychopath in New York since the Son of Sam.

Why you'll like it: True crime. Haunting. Melancholy. Lush.

About the Author: Robert Kolker is the New York Times bestselling author of Lost Girls, named one of the New York Times' 100 Notable Books and one of Publisher's Weekly's Top Ten Books of 2013. As a journalist, his work has appeared in New York magazine, Bloomberg Businessweek, The New York Times Magazine, Wired, GQ, Oprah, and Men's Journal. (Amazon)

Questions for Discussion

1. Did you like the book or not? Is it possible to find a book interesting without 'enjoying' it? If you didn't like it, why? Did you have to force yourself to get through it or were you unable to put it down?

2. How did the book affect you? Do you feel 'changed' in anyway?

3. Did Kolker provide enough background material on the girls to allow readers to get involved?

4. Did Kolker attempt to remain objective or did the book become personal and biased? Why?

5. Does the fact that the young women were call girls, sex workers, affect how you feel about their loss?

6. Were there parts of the story that Kolker could have provided more detail or a different avenue of thought?

7. Kolker does an extraordinary job of elucidating the girls' backgrounds. Which backstory do you find most sympathetic? Do any of the girls remind you of yourself or someone you know? How? Discuss the forces that drove each of them into the dubious profession she pursued.

8. Talk about the communication devices that facilitated the girls' entry into the world of prostitution. How can society protect its young women given the ease and anonymity of modern technology?

9. Was there a specific passage that had left an impression, good or bad?

10. Discuss the numerous theories put forth by law enforcement officials, the community, and even some of the suspects. Which, if any of them, do you find credible?

(Questions provided by LitLovers)

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