



pretty girl-13

BY LIZ COLEY

ABOUT THE BOOK

The last thing thirteen-year-old Angie Chapman remembers is walking into the woods alone during a Girl Scout camping trip. But now she has returned home, and sixteen-year-old Angie struggles to piece together the last three years of her life, unraveling the story of her kidnapping and abuse. Liz Coley's *Pretty Girl-13* is a disturbing—and ultimately empowering—psychological mystery about accepting our whole selves, and the healing power of courage, hope, and love.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Angie's father struggles with accepting his daughter back into his life. Why do you think he reacts that way?
2. What does Little Wife's ring symbolize throughout the story?
3. Why does Angie find herself still drawn to Greg? Do you think that Angie is at fault for what happens with Greg and Liv?
4. Dr. Grant suggests an experimental form of treatment that would "erase" the alters from Angie's mind. If you were Angie, would you have chosen the treatment? Or would you have continued with more traditional therapy?
5. Girl Scout refers to Little Wife as Slut. Why do you think she does this? How would being called a slut make you feel?
6. Angie and Angel both hint that Angel was the one who killed their kidnapper. However, Detective Brogan says that the man died from cardiac arrest (p. 314). What do you think happened, and why?
7. After the truth about Yuncle comes out, Angie's grandmother doesn't believe that Angie was abused by him. Why do you think she chooses to believe Yuncle?
8. Abraim accepts Angie despite all of the things that have happened to her. What makes Abraim different from the other men in Angie's life?
9. The Gatekeeper hands over control before Angie knows about the Lonely One. Do you think the Gatekeeper could have helped prevent the Lonely One from taking over (p. 323–324)?
10. Angie decides to leave Sam with the Harris family instead of raising him herself. Why do you think she does this? Do you agree with her decision?
11. Angie developed her alters as a way to deal with the abuse she suffered from Yuncle and the kidnapper, although she eventually learns what happened to her. Do you think the alters protected Angie? Would you want to regain those memories?
12. Angie is bothered by the discovery of her mom's scrapbook. However, Angie's own journal helps her to remember her old life as well as piece together important memories from her alters. What significance does the story place on documenting our own lives? Do you keep a journal or a scrapbook? If so, why?

