

Discussion Questions



THEN AND NOW

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About the Book

Aiden Balfour has always craved stability, independence and security. He's led a rocky life but always treasured his summers in Northern Michigan with his best summertime friend, Olivia Masters.

Olivia is dedicated to preserving the life she's known and has always treasured at her grandparent's home high on a bluff overlooking the pristine waters of Avalon. With their blessing, she's turned the expansive piece of property into a quaint, restful bed and breakfast.

But developers are circling—and they're led by none other than Aiden Balfour.

Now an ambitious businessman, he's determined to turn the lake into a tourist mecca. Olivia is equally determined to stop him...no matter what his hold on her heart.

Can the innocent joy and love of their youth be reclaimed? Can then...and now...ever be reconciled to a future overflowing with love and hope?

TITLE: Then and Now

Discussion:

Question 1: Aiden and Olivia share the history of a childhood friendship rich with summertime experiences, lakeside adventures and carefree fun. Describe such a relationship in your own life.

Answer 1:

Question 2: How does this relationship affect you today? Does it still exist? If so, or if not, discuss the reasons why.

Answer 2:

Question 3: Bent on proving himself, and establishing self-worth, Aiden places great emotional and spiritual emphasis on succeeding in business, a drastic change from his youth. Can you relate? Do you know of people of a similar mind-set?

Answer 3:

Question 4: Olivia, meanwhile, is equally determined to preserve that which she loves the most, and has relied on all her life's roots, history and love. Discuss her reaction to Aiden's return to her life as a developer ready to change the landscape of the lake Olivia has battled to protect.

Answer 4:

Question 5: Circumstances surrounding substance abuse have scarred Aiden and motivated him to push and strive for security. How did you feel about this quest? Is his goal understandable? Is the security he seeks attainable?

Answer 5:

Question 6: In answer to the changes she sees in her friend, Olivia does her best to reawaken the innocence of their youth's fishing, hiking, boating and church attendance. When have you re-discovered yourself in such a way, or helped someone else reconnect with a more spiritual center?

Answer 6:

Question 7: Discuss the idea of spiritual contentment, and joy versus materialistic success. How has modern culture influenced the ideal of "less is more"?

Answer 7:

Question 8: Reconciliation "spiritually and emotionally" forms the theme of Then and Now. Discuss the impact of reconciliation in your own life.

Answer 8:

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