

Longing by Mary Balogh Book Club

1. What do you think of the 3rd person narration?
2. This book was originally published in 1995, does it feel dated?
3. The first chapter is from Alex's perspective and he is a stranger to Wales, how does this shape your perceptions of him and the setting?
4. What do you think of the timing of Alex finding the clandestine meeting on his first walk in Wales?
5. Did you know about Chartism (1837-1848) before this book? What do you think of the movement based on this book?
6. How do you feel about Alex kissing the woman he is interrogating?
7. When the book switches to Sian's perspective how does it change?
8. Why do you think Sian, an educated woman and the illegitimate daughter of an aristocrat, took a job in the mines?
9. What do you think of Sian's relationship with Owen?
10. How do you feel about the love triangle?
11. Does going to the mountain for alone time sound romantic? Why or why not?
12. Who do the Scotch Cattle remind you of from American history? Why?
13. Why do you think Sian initially turned down Alex's offer to be a governess?
14. Who is your favorite character and why?
15. Who is your least favorite character and why?
16. Why do you think Sian resists Alex's advances?
17. What do you think about Sian deciding to be Verity's governess?
18. How do you feel about Sian's confrontation with her father and his wife and daughter at tea?
19. What tropes do you think this book employs?
20. How does the theme of betrayal play out in this book?
21. What do you think of the Scotch Cattle whipping Sian 15 times?
22. How do you feel about Alex and Owen's fight and Alex's decision not to whip him?
23. Should Sian try to leave the valley and get a job teaching elsewhere in Wales? Why or why not?
24. What do you think of Sian chasing after the mob to try to save Iestyn?
25. Does Owen redeem himself by sacrificing his life for Sian? Why or why not?
26. Alex acts like an autocrat to save Sian from the authorities, is this a good choice? Why or why not?
27. Do you think a marriage between Sian and Alex will work? Why or why not?
28. Did you like the book?
29. Would you read more by the author?