

## Saving Missy book club questions

1. How would you describe the book in one line?
2. What do you think the central themes of the book are? Were there any themes that resonated more strongly with you than others?
3. *'Sometimes the loneliness was overpowering. Not just the immediate loneliness of living in a huge house on my own, loved ones far away, but a more abstract, galactic isolation, like a leaking boat bobbing in open water, no anchor or land in sight. I might sink, or just float further and further out, and I wasn't sure which was worse.'* Do you think this is an accurate representation of loneliness? Do you think Missy's loneliness were specific to old age, and therefore could be universal, or do you think they related more to her character?
4. Did you warm to Missy as a character? Why or why not?
5. *'We had loved each other. [Leo] didn't go in for passionate declarations, but we knew we were each other's home – knew it in the way he always set my teacup on the table the night before, ready for morning; knew it in the tender Latin poems and quotes he left around the house for me to translate; the way he called me Missy just like Fa-Fa had, and was the only one who knew why he was doing it. He didn't need to say it. He really didn't. Love begets love, and I had so much that there was enough to reflect back.'* How do you think 'love' was portrayed in the book? Is it a novel about more than one kind of love?
6. How do you think Missy's narrative arc was changed by the arrival – and departure – of Bobby?
7. Did you like *Saving Missy*? Would you recommend it to a friend?
8. What do you think the future holds for Missy and friends?