



About the Book

Set in lower mainland British Columbia, *Everything Was Good-bye* is a moving, modern-day story about a young Indo-Canadian woman named Meena who is struggling to find her place in the world. Caught between the traditional values of her family and her desire to have the same freedom as other Canadian women, Meena is faced with difficult choices—and her decisions will lead to tragic consequences for everyone involved.

Debut novelist Gurjinder Basran has created a world filled with fascinatingly complex characters in a powerful, uniquely Canadian story. Beautifully written and searingly honest, *Everything Was Good-bye* is a novel that explores the meaning of love, the pain of heartbreak, and the journey toward self-acceptance.

Discussion Questions

1. The death of Meena's father left the family in a tough situation—a single mother struggling to raise six daughters in a new country. Discuss how her father's death has shaped Meena's relationship with her mother.
2. Meena is the youngest of six daughters and in many ways has experienced more freedom compared to her other sisters. Do you think they feel any jealousy or resentment toward her?
3. Liam confides in Meena that he went to see his mother after she had abandoned the family. Do you think that was a mistake on his part? Explain.
4. Meena's sisters, Serena and Harj, both experience what could be seen as a betrayal of trust by their mother. Serena is sent home to her husband who had assaulted her and Harj's insistence that she had not willingly gotten into a car full of men fell on deaf ears. How do you explain Serena's and Harj's different reactions to this betrayal?
5. Marriage plays a large role in the lives of many of the characters. What does the author reveal about each of the characters through these relationships?
6. Before they are married, Sunny admits to Meena that he still cares for his ex-girlfriend, Jasmine, and that his parents wanted to keep him away from her. In what ways do you think his feelings for Jasmine affected his feelings for Meena? Do you think he would have ever loved Meena?
7. When Meena learns that she is carrying Liam's child, she tries to hide the truth from Sunny. Could she have handled the situation better? What would you do in her position?
8. When Meena unexpectedly runs into Harj at the store, they agree to sit down for coffee. During this reunion, there are a number of awkward moments with many things left unsaid. Do you think Harj will ever reconcile with her mother? Is the bond between sisters unbreakable? Discuss.
9. Do you believe that Meena will one day marry Kal? Discuss what reasons Meena might have to change her mind? What could be her reasons to continue their current relationship?