**Readers’ Group Questions for**

**PROMISES TO KEEP**

**By Claire Yezbak Fadden**

SPOILER ALERT. Some questions contain spoilers.

1) Kate Wiley embraces her role as a new mother, at the surrender of all else in her life, including a promising career as an architect. Is that a wise decision? Would you do the same?

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2) Shortly after their son is born, Eric leaves on business. Kate decides her marriage is in trouble and that Eric is planning to desert her the way her father had left her mother. Are her fears rational? Is she creating a self-fulfilling prophecy? Have you ever set yourself up for failure?

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3) Eric keeps many secrets from Kate. The most important one may be that he was adopted by his parents best friends after their murder. Discuss the reasons why Eric doesn’t open up about his past to Kate until it’s almost too late.

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4) Discovering the panic room only confirms Kate's worst fears -- she’s living an artificial life. Everything she believed in is not real, including her husband. Did you think this marriage could be saved? Would you have waited for an explanation, or would you have left?

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5) Family provides balance, security and unconditional love. In Eric’s case, Adele and Ben, his adoptive parents, caused his grief and sorrow. How would you cope if a close family member had betrayed you?

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6) As the saying goes, everyone is fighting a battle you know nothing about. This is true for those closest to Kate. Even though her life is in chaos, she still manages to be supportive to her sisters, Julie and Monica, as well as her best friend, Colleen. Reflect on a time in your life when everything seemed to be falling apart, yet you dug deep to be there for a friend or family member.

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