

## **Reading Group Questions for *The Safe House* by Louise Mumford**

- Esther's first asthma attack is a pivotal point in the story for Hannah, her mother. What do you think of the way she reacts to this? A protective mother or an over-protective mother? Would you say that their relationship tips into a toxic mother/daughter bond?
- When did you begin to suspect that Hannah had a darker side?
- How do both Hannah and Esther find ways to make life less grim and dull in their sealed, remote house?
- Why does the House have a capital letter in Esther's mind?
- Most of Esther's knowledge of the world comes from old films and books. How does this add to her confusion when she steps into the real world? And what are the things that confuse her?
- How does the addition of Hannah's story add to our understanding of the character?
- When does Mr Wiffles stop talking to Esther? Why does it happen at this point and what is the significance of this?
- Why do you think Hannah kills herself at the end?
- Did you find the ending satisfying or not? Why?

Further reading:

*Bunker: Building for the End Times* by Bradley Garrett