**Beauty Queens**

**By Libba Bray**

**About the Book**

Teen beauty queens. A "Lost"-like island. Mysteries and dangers. No access to emall. And the spirit of fierce, feral competition that lives underground in girls, a savage brutality that can only be revealed by a journey into the heart of non-exfoliated darkness. Oh, the horror, the horror! Only funnier. With evening gowns. And a body count.

**About the Author**

What is it about writing an author bio that gives me that deer-in-headlights feeling? It's not exactly like I'm going to say "I was born in Alabama..." and somebody's going to jump up and snarl, "Oh yeah? Prove it!" At least I hope not.

I think what gets me feeling itchy is all that emphasis on the facts of a life, while all the juicy, relevant, human oddity stuff gets left on the cutting room floor. I could tell you the facts-I lived in Texas for most of my life; I live in New York City with my husband and five-year-old son now; I have freckles and a lopsided smile; I'm allergic to penicillin.

But that doesn't really give you much insight into me. That doesn't tell you that I stuck a bead up my nose while watching TV when I was four and thought I'd have to go to the ER and have it cut out. Or that I once sang a punk version of "Que Sera Sera" onstage in New York City. Or that I made everyone call me "Bert" in ninth grade for no reason that I can think of. See what I mean?

**If you enjoyed this book*:***

* Leah on the Offbeat by Becky Albertalli
* Queens of Geek by Jen Wilde
* Ship It by Britta Lundin
* Tiny Pretty Things by Sona Charaipotr
* Seven Ways We Lie by Riley Redgate

**Discussion Questions**

1. What did you like about the book? Dislike?
2. What were you expecting when you saw the title and description of the book? Did it meet your expectations?
3. Discuss the different characters in the book. Who was your favorite? Least favorite? Explain why. We get to know the girls through their individual “Fun Facts Page.” Which one is your favorite? Why? How does it give an additional window into a character? Who is your favorite character? Do all of them have the same motives for the competition or not? With whom do you most identify? How do they identify a great deal of themselves while they practice the question and answer format for the pageant?
4. What did you think of the “interruptions” for commercials, interviews, etc. How did this affect your understanding of what was going on?
5. What do The Lost Girls discover while exploring the wreckage? The girls seem to size each other up as if the competition were more important than survival. Do women do this to each other even without a beauty competition hovering in the wings? Why? Do you think men or women are more competitive?
6. Did you like that the pirates showed up? What about the group dynamic changed after that?
7. This is a book with several messages it’s trying to get across. Do you think it succeeded?
8. If you could ask the author anything, what would it be?