

BOOK CLUB

The *Consequence of Anna* is a story with multiple themes and issues relevant to today's society. Some are timeless, like love, friendship, infidelity, heartache, and sacrifice; while others are just now receiving the attention they deserve due to changing norms, attitudes, and social stigmas regarding mental illness and its treatments. As such, the authors of this poignant tale inspired by true events felt *The Consequence of Anna* was perfect for Book Clubs, and took the liberty to generate a list of questions to facilitate interesting discussion . . .

General Questions About the Book

1. What did you like most about the book? What did you like the least?
2. Was this a page-turner for you, or did it take you a while to finish?
3. Did the book's pace seem appropriate for the story?
4. Did the story strike you as original and unique?
5. How well do you think the authors conveyed the setting, time period, and world in which the characters lived?
6. What do you think of the book's title in relation to the story? Would you have given it a different title, and if yes, what would it be?
7. What do you think of the book's cover and how well it conveys what the story is about?
8. What do you think of the images in the book? Were they a nice touch or just a distraction?
9. What did you think of the length of the book? If it's too long, what would you cut?
10. What did you think of the writing style, and are there any standout sentences/paragraphs?
11. Did you reread, highlight, or bookmark any passages, and if so, which ones and why?
12. Which chapter or scene stuck with you the most, and why?
13. What were the central themes and issues of the book? How well do you think the authors explored them?
14. What symbolism caught your attention, and how well did the authors use it?
15. How did the story impact you? What emotions did it evoke? Do you think you'll remember it in a few months or years?
16. How thought-provoking did you find the book? Did it change your opinion about anything, or did you learn something new from it? If so, what?
17. What surprised you most about the book, and why?
18. Was there any part of the plot or aspects of the characters that frustrated or upset you? If so, why?
19. Are there any lingering questions you're still thinking about?
20. How did you feel about the ending? How might you change it?
21. Would you ever consider re-reading it? Why or why not?
22. Who do you most want to read this book, and why?
23. Are there any books you would compare this one to? If yes, describe the connection.
24. If you could ask the authors anything, what would it be?
25. Rate this book on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest. Why did you give that rating? Did any part of this Book Club discussion change your rating from what it was after finishing the book?

General Questions About the Characters

1. Who was your favorite character, and why?
2. Were there any characters you disliked, and why?
3. Did the characters seem believable to you? Were they thoroughly fleshed out? Did they remind you of anyone?
4. Which character or moment prompted the strongest emotional reaction for you, and why?
5. Which character did you identify with, relate to, or empathize with most?
6. What were the power dynamics between the characters, and how did that affect their interactions?
7. Were there times you disagreed with a character's actions? If yes, what would you have done differently?
8. How does the way the characters see themselves differ from the way others see them?
9. How have the characters changed by the end of the book?
10. Were there any secondary characters you would have liked to know more about?
11. Which character would you most like to meet in real life?
12. If you were making a movie of this book, who would you cast for each role?

Specific Questions About Anna, James, and Rose

1. In one sentence, how would you describe Anna, James, and Rose?
2. If you could meet Anna, James, and Rose, what would you say to each of them?
3. Did Anna truly love James and Rose, or did she only view them as possessions?
4. Aside from her loneliness due to the loss of her mother and sister, why was Anna's sisterly love for Rose so intense?
5. If Anna had not suffered from mental illness and had bonded with James emotionally and intimately, would the love triangle have still transpired?
6. Should James and Rose have disclosed to Anna right away that they had met before at Christian and Josephine's wedding? Why or why not?
7. Should Rose have left Sugar Alexandria as soon as she realized the feelings between her and James were still very strong?
8. Who was ultimately to blame for the love triangle—Anna, James, or Rose—and why?
9. Was it more wrong of James and Rose to capitulate to Anna's plan knowing she was mentally ill?
10. Why do you think Anna hallucinated a woman from the 1800s in a black Victorian dress, and where might she have gotten Genevieve's name?
11. Why do you think Anna hallucinated the shadow people, and who or what do you think they were?
12. Why do you think Anna hallucinated the Black Shuck when she knew it was a folklore tale?
13. Why do you think Anna hallucinated Callum McTavish as being the Black Shuck before she killed him?
14. Should Anna have gone to prison for killing Callum McTavish, even though she was hallucinating, or was her suffering in the mental institution punishment enough?
15. Should James have been held accountable for protecting his mentally ill wife by covering up her killing of Callum McTavish?
16. Should Anna have agreed to see her beloved Rose long before she did, rather than waiting decades until they were old?
17. If you were Joshua, would you have visited Anna, knowing she had almost killed you and your mother when you were a baby?
18. Was it wrong for James to start his life over in Ireland with Rose, leaving his twin daughters behind?
19. On hearing James' play his moving composition, *The Consequence of Anna*, should Anna have been upset instead of honored?

20. If Anna had known from the start that her mother had suffered the same mental illnesses as her, and died in the Pleasant Skies Psychiatric Hospital, do you think it would have facilitated Anna getting help sooner?
21. What do you think of James' reasoning for wanting to be buried at Sugar Alexandria instead of his father's Irish burial plot, when for so many years he loathed his life there?
22. Why do you think Anna kept the figurine James had carved of Rose, despite what happened between the three of them?
23. At the end of the book after Rose's visit, Anna forgets to take her medication, and the paintings begin to move and speak to her. She shushes them and grins. What do you think that means?

