



# Book Club in a Bag

## Discussion Questions

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### *A Burning* by Megha Majumdar

1. Shortly after her arrest, Jivan states: "A woman like me is never believed". Discuss the importance of this statement for the overall narrative. What assumptions are made about Jivan based on her religion? Her socioeconomic standing? How does she try to defy societal expectations throughout her life?
2. Consider the two interstitial chapters that are written from the vantage point of Jivan's mother and father. Why do you think the author chose to include these two brief scenes? How do they contribute to the emotional impact of the narrative? Describe Jivan's relationship with her parents.
3. Why do you think Lovely dreams of becoming a movie star? How does this ambition relate to the instances of disrespect she faces in public, as well as to the ceremonies at which she is welcomed?
4. Consider the conditions of Jivan's imprisonment. How does she conduct herself in her day-to-day life? Describe her relationship with the other incarcerated women. How does Jivan's decision to bribe Americandi weigh on her conscience?
5. Education plays an integral role in *A Burning*. How is the education system described? Consider PT Sir's role within it and Jivan's experience in his school. How does the act of learning English become a form of empowerment for her? For Lovely?
6. At several points in the novel, the reader witnesses characters become morally flexible as they strive to achieve personal goals. Who, in your opinion, is the most morally reprehensible?
7. Consider your initial impression of PT Sir. How would you describe his day-to-day life before he attends the rally? How did the rally change his point of view on political engagement?

The above questions were taken from  
<https://www.litlovers.com/reading-guides/fiction/11754-burning-majumdar>  
for your discussion of the book.

# Author Biography

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Megha Majumdar is the author of the New York Times bestseller and Editors' Choice *A Burning*. She was born and raised in Kolkata, India. She moved to the United States to attend college at Harvard University, followed by graduate school in social anthropology at Johns Hopkins University. She works as an editor at Catapult, and lives in New York City. *A Burning* is her first book.

From author website: <https://www.meghamajumdar.com/>

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