



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

“The Color of Our Sky” by Amita Trasi

1. When we first meet Mukta, she says, “I did not know my body did not belong to me” when she was a child, just as her mother’s and her grandmother’s bodies had been dedicated to prostitution. Could Mukta’s mother have done more to help Mukta avoid the same fate as her? Why do you think her grandmother, Sakubai, insisted Mukta follow devadasi tradition rather than trying to escape it?
2. Aai tells Tara “Your Papa has all these fancy ideas about equality. Society doesn’t function that way. We have to know our place in society.” Do you agree? Why does Tara befriend Mukta despite the obvious difference in status between them? As adults, did their places change at all or was Aai right that people are never truly equal in society?
3. Do you think Tara’s father did enough to give Mukta a better life? Would he have behaved differently if he’d been able to confirm that she was his biological child?
4. What do you think of the love between Sanjeev and Mukta? Do you think it would have lasted if she’d managed to escape with him?
5. Tara says of Raza, “In his eyes, I saw the same zeal to study that I had once seen in Mukta’s, the same glimmer of hope, of survival flickered there.” Unlike Mukta, Raza managed to escape being on “the lowest rung of the ladder in the underworld.” Was he better able to escape because he was a boy? Why has his path in life differed so much from that of his childhood friend Salim?
6. What does it say about Raza and Tara that they’re able to treat each other as equals --- and fall in love --- as adults despite the great differences in their religion and backgrounds?
7. Mukta tells Tara that she doesn’t want a DNA test to prove whether Papa is her father: “I want to remember him as my father whether it is the truth or not.” Would you have done the same? Were you disappointed or pleased by her decision?

The above questions were taken from Reading Group Guides.
www.readinggroupguides.com/reviews/the-color-of-our-sky/guide

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