



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

The Great Alone by *Kristin Hannah*

1. Alaska is a character in this novel. The author wants you to understand both the grandeur and danger that are present every day in the Last Frontier. How did the landscape create and shape this story? Is this a story that could have taken place anywhere?
2. What aspects of the Alaska/homesteader lifestyle would you find the most challenging? How would you handle the isolation, the interdependence among neighbors, and the climate?
3. What does *The Great Alone* have to say about the idea of turning one's back on civilization and the problems of society?
4. One of the issues highlighted in the novel is the lack of legal support for women in the seventies. Large Marge often makes the point that the law can't help women like Cora. Leni, even as young as she is, intuits that only Cora can save herself. Do you think that was true then? Is it true today? Does the law do enough to help battered women?
5. Did you see Cora's explosive act of protection coming? What did it feel like to read that scene? Do you think you'd be capable of the same act, or write such a confessional letter?
6. Would you say that Leni is a survivor? Is Cora?
7. Leni and Matthew experience their first friendships and first love together. How did you feel about their relationship as it was growing?
8. How did the building of Ernt's wall affect you as a reader? As he was building it, what did you think was going to happen?
9. At the end of the story, Leni ends up back in Alaska. Do you think there's an ultimate place where people belong? How would you know if you got there?

The above questions were adapted from <https://kristinhannah.com/books/the-great-alone/the-great-alone-book-clubs/> to enhance your discussion of the book.

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