



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

Spark of Light by Jordi Picoult

1. This novel is told in reverse, counting back in time the hours of the hostage stand-off. Why do you think the author chose to structure the book this way? How does this unique structure affect your reading experience?
2. The story is narrated from the points of view of ten different characters: Wren, Hugh, Bex, George, Beth, Olive, Joy, Janine, Louie, and Izzy. Why do you think the author chose to include so many different perspectives? Was there a character you connected with or had difficulty connecting with? Why?
3. Hugh discovers that his daughter is one of the hostages. What do you think of Hugh's decision to remain on the case when he had a personal stake in it? Do you think he has a stronger ethical responsibility to his police force and the community at large or to his family?
4. Discuss the different types of betrayals that appear in the book. How do you define "betrayal"? Is there ever a time when betraying someone is the right thing to do?
5. Financial security is one of the issues identified as a reason why some women choose to have abortions, and it is certainly a factor in Joy and Izzy's decisions. How have their experiences with poverty impacted each of their choices?
6. We learn that Janine, a pro-life protester, has had an abortion herself. What do you think of her choice to commit her life to pro-life protests? Do you find this behaviour hypocritical or understandable?
7. Joy and Janine are often framed in parallel to one another. Initially, they both seem to stand on opposite sides of the pro-life/pro-choice debate. By the end, do you think they found common ground? Is it possible to form a connection with someone "opposite" you and still maintain a commitment to one's beliefs?
8. By the end of the book, we discover that these characters' lives are interwoven. Were you surprised by any of the interconnections that were revealed?

The above questions were adapted from <https://www.jodipicoult.com/a-spark-of-light.html> to enhance your discussion of the book.

Book Club in a Bag

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