



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

“The Wonder” by Emma Donoghue

1. How would you describe Lib Wright (consider the name, perhaps)—especially when we first meet her? How does she approach her move to Ireland, the people, superstitions, and the food? When does it become evident that there is part of Lib's past she is not revealing to us? How reliable of a narrator is she?
2. What about Anna O'Donnell? How does she differ from expectations, both yours and Lib's? When Lib first sees her, what is the state of Anna's health—does Lib find her as healthy as everyone claims she is?
3. Talk about the very complicated reasons for Anna's fasting. Is Anna too young to understand her decision? What responsibility do the family and the church have for Anna? What about the doctor's role?
4. As the days pass and Anna's condition deteriorates, Liz begins to feel she may be complicit in girl's demise. Is she?
5. The novel brings up basic philosophical and religious questions, one of which is what it means to give up the most vital necessity of life in the name of something greater than yourself. Is it admirable, mad, selfish, or narcissistic?
6. The journalist asks Lib if she has "ever put to Ana, fair and square, that she must eat." Has Lib done so?
7. The novel has a gothic feel to it: spooky, menacing, and even harrowing. What makes for the sinister atmosphere that pervades the novel?
8. Discuss the book's title. What are the multiple meanings of “The Wonder”?

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Book Club in a Bag

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