



The Sword and the Sunflower

Book Club Questions

These questions are provided to you and your book club to stimulate fun and meaningful conversation. **Warning spoilers ahead.** Do not read these questions until you have completed the book. Note that some questions are specific to a chapter, and some are regarding the book overall. As a book club leader you may want to print and distribute them to your club.

Chapter questions

(the chapter listed is the chapter you have already finished, at least. These questions are helpful if your group meets while you are reading the book. If your club only meets when finished you may consider only using the Overall questions)

The agreement - How does the bishop make you feel? What is your gut reaction to the type of person he is?

The bill comes due & The bishop's offer - What deed or event do you think Stojan is trying to escape from? Would you do one last job—however horrible—if it meant enough money to escape and be left alone?

A lion departs - What happened to Stojan? Where exactly is he? Would your parental instinct kick in if you were in his place? Have you ever had to render help to a child you didn't know?

Do the events surrounding the chapter **The bridge** remind you of a situation in which you seemingly had no control?

Have you ever had to talk someone down? What did you think of Stojan's method?

What do you think of Anastazja routinely going on walks alone?

Did you listen to the music suggested at the beginning of the book (e.g. - [Divenire by Ludovico Einaudi](#))

What is your impression of the merchant and his relationship with Dagmar? Do you think one or both are honorable men?

Overall questions

1. How did Stojan's, Anastazj and Dagmar's character change over time?
2. Would you have made the same choice that Stojan did, ultimately? Why or why not?
3. How would it affect your own life if something about you always revealed the mood you were in?

4. What was your impression of The People? What did you think of the simple, but important lessons they tried to teach? What lessons about life have you learned that you find joy in sharing?
5. Which character in the book could you relate to the most? Was it something that would be obvious to other readers, or something subtle?
6. Which point in the book did you find the most engaging?
7. Did you listen to the music suggested at the beginning of the book (e.g. - [Divenire by Ludovico Einaudi](#)) If so how did it make you feel?
8. Have you ever looked at a statue so long that you thought at any second it would move? Did you play that game when you were a kid?
9. What would you do if you were brought to a great library and there were almost no books in the world, and you were allowed to take only one with you?
10. Would you like to have a special name, one that most people do not know? Do you already have one?
11. What did you think of Stojan's visions? Did you find them interesting, horrible, or all of the above? Do you think they were just random images, or did they tell the future?
12. How do you think Stojan felt about his vision ceremony and how that influenced his decision to leave abruptly?
13. What did you think of the end of the book? Was it what you expected, if not how did you think it was going to end?

Other questions

Here you can create your own questions for the group. Feel free to submit them if you think they will be enjoyed by other groups:

[The Sword and the Sunflower](#), and [Amira](#) are works of fiction by Mark Bradford and these questions are intended solely for book club leaders and their members. Because they contain spoilers we ask that you do not distribute them. Thank you!