



BOOK CLUB & READER EDITION

THE QUESTIONS GREAT STORIES LEAVE BEHIND

A Discussion Guide for Thoughtful Readers

Some books entertain us for a few hours. Others stay with us long after the final page. The stories I'm most drawn to as both a reader and a writer are the ones that leave behind *difficult questions*, emotionally complicated characters, and conversations without easy answers.

This guide was created to help book clubs move beyond *"Did you enjoy it?"* and into deeper discussion around character, morality, truth, forgiveness, resilience, and the choices people make under pressure. These questions can be used with any of my novels, or with any story that leaves your group talking long after the ending.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 01 Which character felt the most emotionally real to you, and why?

03 Which choice in the story did you struggle with the most?

05 How did grief, guilt, secrecy, or regret shape the characters' decisions?

07 What truth in the story carried the greatest emotional weight?

09 What question from the story stayed with you after you finished reading?
- 02 Was there a moment where your understanding of a character shifted dramatically?

04 Did the ending resolve the emotional questions, even if not every mystery was answered?

06 Was there a character whose actions you understood, even if you couldn't fully forgive them?

08 Which relationship in the novel felt the most complicated or meaningful to you?

10 If your book club could ask the author one question about the story, what would it be?

I'd truly love to hear what conversations emerged around your book club table. Let's stay connected as your group explores the story.

MARIANNE SCOTTAUTHOR.COM