



# BOOK CLUB KIT





# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1.

“There was something almost insidious about puberty—the way it slammed shut the door to childhood, never to be reopened, and shoved you face-first into this strange, dangerous place called womanhood.” (pg 2) What does womanhood mean over the course of this novel?

2.

Alice questions her own mind constantly throughout the book as she encounters strange figures and is undermined by Steve about her experiences. How did you interact with Alice as a narrator?

3.

“You think white guys are the only ones capable of ruining a Native girl’s life?” (pg 17) There are many forces at work against the Indigenous women in this novel. What are some we see in action?

4.

“Both her ma and Aunt Rachel had tried to explain to Alice how her period connected her to our mother, the earth; our grandmother, the moon; how she was one in a line of women who could be traced all the way back to Sky Woman, the mother of our nations.” (pg 3) Over the course of the book, the concept of Alice as part of a line of women comes back in different ways. What does this connection mean for her and the women she’s related to?

5.

How does parenthood impact Alice differently than Steve? What does it say about their characters, and the larger story?



6.

Alice's writing has "the voice of a gossipy, irreverent young woman when common sense (and stereotypes) say I should be writing it in the voice of a sage old Indian man." (pg 214) Why do you think she made this stylistic choice? How did it impact your reading of those sections?

7.

"Dana's the one who got me on Instagram. Did you know there are girls on there who sell out their entire stock within minutes of posting? I'd never have to go on the pow-wow trail again." (pg 67) In what ways do we see modern culture impact Indigenous traditions, from crafts to storytelling?

8.

"Your father's stories were a seed he planted in you. And even though he isn't here to see how that seed's growing, it still is. Isn't it?" (pg 324) Over the course of the book, we see the power of stories and legacy. Which stories have the most value, and which are undermined?

9.

Tanya gives Alice medicine in a flask, and Alice drinks vodka from a small bottle. Another famous literary Alice drank from small bottles—do you see any other parallels between Alice's story and Alice in Wonderland?

10.

What does the story of the corn husk doll that Steve tells Alice mean? How does he use Mohawk stories differently than Alice?

11.

"When this country wants us dead, every breath we take is a tiny revolution. You don't need to do nothing fancy. Just continuing to breathe is enough." (pg 328) Discuss this line.

12.

If you had the power to warn someone in your life before they made a mistake, would you do it? How would you make them listen?