



Book Club Discussion Questions

It Only Happens in the Movies – Holly Bourne

1. Audrey's friendships with other characters (in particular Leroy and Alice) are explored throughout the novel. What role do you think these characters play in it?
2. In the book Audrey argues that romantic movie clichés set “unhelpful” standards for real-life relationships. Do you agree and why?
3. Audrey's parents seemed to have a fairy tale love story (at the start!) How do you think this shaped her views on romance?
4. Cognitive dissonance: Is it possible to enjoy romantic films while still being aware that they may be problematic? Can you think of a romance film that Audrey would approve of?
5. Why do you feel Harry is drawn to the sort of clichés that make Audrey so angry (saying she's “not like other girls”; taking her on a “quirky” date)?
6. Harry is seen as your typical ‘bad boy’, but were there any elements of him that were actually good for Audrey?
7. What are your views on Rosie? What is her function within the novel?
8. With the current debates about the treatment of women in Hollywood, do you think films will change in future? Will the clichés Audrey is concerned about continue to appear?
9. At the start of the novel, Audrey's decisions are strongly influenced by other people. Does this change?
10. That ending: did Audrey make the right decision? And for the right reasons?