

Book Club Discussion Questions

Beauty Sleep – Kathryn Evans

1. Laura has been frozen for 40 years, what impact do you think this has on her? How do you think the change in technology affects her and how do you think it helps others to manipulate her?
2. The book is set in 2028 but the technology seems way beyond anything we could imagine in the next decade. Why do you think the author chooses to do this?
3. How early did you make the connection between Shem and Laura? What were the clues you picked up on?
4. How is Bert presented in contrast to Miss Lilly? What function do you think he serves in the novel?
5. Privacy is a big issue in the novel. Do you think we can ever truly be private in the modern world? Are there any similarities between your experiences of the world and Laura's?
6. Shem receives help from several kind strangers throughout the novel. Why do you think Kathryn Evans included these characters and what did she want to show through them?
7. Throughout the novel we're never fully sure what the truth is and who is telling the truth and who is lying. Did you doubt any of the characters? Were you surprised at the end by who was lying and who was telling the truth?
8. Friendship is a key theme in the novel. How did Laura's different friendships across the novel save or endanger her?
9. Miss Lilly plays God in the novel, committing heinous crimes in the belief that she's doing so to make scientific advances. Do you think anyone has a right to play God? What elements of modern science could be seen as trying to play God?
10. Multiple characters were complicit in Miss Lilly's crimes, what other periods of history did this remind you of? Can any of them justify their actions?