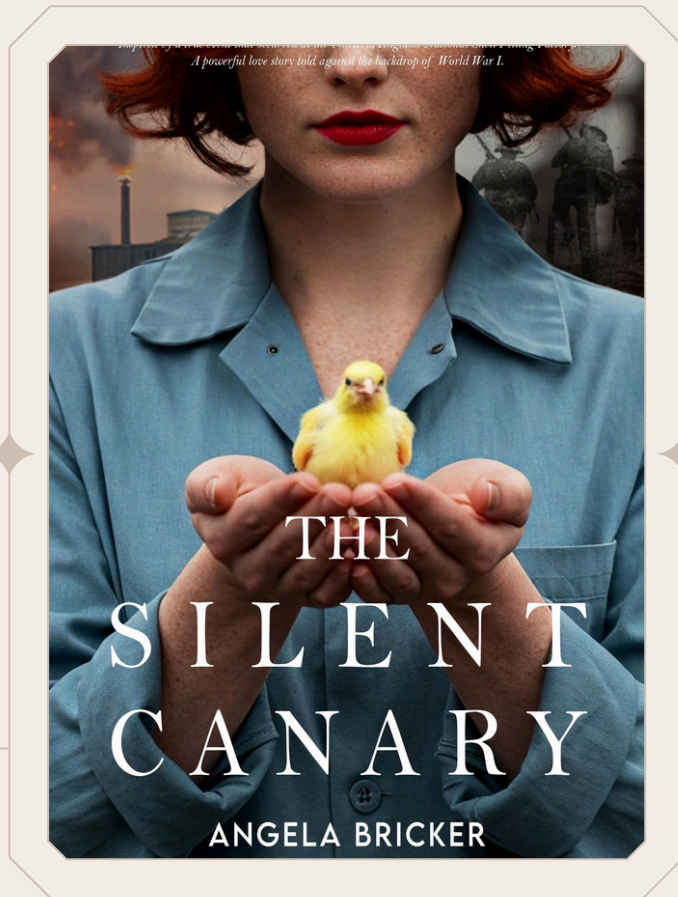


# BOOKCLUB

*Questions*



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## Questions



1. POPPY LETS US KNOW SHE VALUES THE IDEA OF KEEPING SECRETS IN CHAPTER ONE WITH THIS THOUGHT- *"BECAUSE SECRETS ARE JUST THAT: SECRET. THEY BELONG ONLY TO THEIR OWNER. THEY'RE NOT MEANT TO BE OPEN. NOT MEANT TO BE DISCOVERED. NOT MEANT TO BE SHARED. KEEPING SECRETS IS HOW YOU SURVIVE, FATHER TAUGHT ME THAT."* DO YOU THINK POPPY'S FATHER SHOULD HAVE TOLD POPPY THE TRUTH ABOUT HIS VISIT TO SEE JANE AND THE KNOWLEDGE HE GAINED ABOUT HER FEELINGS TOWARDS HIMSELF AND POPPY EARLIER THAN HE DID, OR WAS HE RIGHT IN KEEPING THAT SECRET FROM HER? DO YOU THINK THAT WOULD HAVE CHANGED THE OUTCOME OF THE STORY? WHY OR WHY NOT?

ARE SECRETS, IN FACT, A GOOD THING? WHEN MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO HOLD ON TO A SECRET? ARE THERE THINGS YOU STAY SILENT ABOUT IN EFFORT TO KEEP THE PEACE WITH THOSE AROUND YOU? SHOULD YOU? IS IT EVER WRONG TO STAY SILENT IN ATTEMPT TO KEEP THE PEACE?

2. WHITE FEATHERS WERE HANDED OUT (USUALLY PUBLICLY) AS PART OF THE 'ORDER OF THE WHITE FEATHER' COMMAND TO MEN WHO WERE STILL AT HOME AND NOT SERVING IN THE WAR, AS HAPPENED TO LUCA IN THE STORY. THEY DID NOT TAKE THE TIME TO CONSIDER WHY A YOUNG MAN MAY BE STAYING BEHIND, IT WAS SIMPLY AN ATTEMPT TO SEPARATE THEM FROM THE BRAVE MEN AND SHAME THEM INTO SERVICE. HISTORY HAS TAUGHT US THAT WE CANNOT SEPARATE OR MARGINALIZE PEOPLE THAT ARE DIFFERENT FROM US WITHOUT DESTRUCTIVE CONSEQUENCES TO FOLLOW, BUT DO YOU AT TIMES FIND YOURSELF, CONSCIOUSLY OR UNCONSCIOUSLY, PART OF THE 'ORDER OF THE WHITE FEATHER' TODAY?

3. WHEN LUCA TELLS POPPY THE MEANING BEHIND HER NICKNAME, FIREBIRD, HE EXPLAINS TO HER THE RUSSIAN FOLKLORE BEHIND THE POWER OF A FIREBIRD FEATHER: *"MY FATHER USED TO TELL G AND I A STORY OF A LARGE BIRD WITH MAJESTIC PLUMAGE THAT GLOWS BRIGHTLY, EMITTING RED, ORANGE, AND YELLOW LIGHT LIKE A BONFIRE THAT'S JUST PAST THE TURBULENT FLAME. THE FIREBIRD. IT IS BEAUTIFUL BUT DANGEROUS. IN RUSSIAN FOLKLORE, HE TOLD US, THE FIREBIRD REPRESENTS A TREASURE THAT IS RARE AND DIFFICULT TO POSSESS. A MARVEL THAT IS HIGHLY COVETED BUT BOTH A BLESSING AND A BRINGER OF DOOM TO ITS CAPTOR. THE FACT THAT EVEN JUST ONE OF ITS FEATHERS CONTAINS MAGIC SUGGESTS THE GREAT POWER OF THE BIRD."* HOW DID YOU SEE THIS FORESHADOWING PLAY OUT THROUGHOUT THE STORY?

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4. TWO OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS HAVE CONTINUOUS NERVOUS HABITS. LUCA TOUCHES THE SCAR BENEATH HIS CHIN, AND POPPY RUBS JANE'S GOLDS RING IN HER POCKET. BOTH HABITS ARE A REFLECTION OF AN EMOTIONAL WOUND THEY CARRY. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU ALWAYS DO WHEN YOU'RE NERVOUS THAT HELPS TO CALM YOU? IS YOUR HABIT CONNECTED TO ANYTHING SPECIFIC?

5. WOULD YOU CLASSIFY JAKOB AS A MORALLY GRAY CHARACTER? DO YOU BELIEVE JAKOB EVER MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE? IF HE MADE WRONG CHOICES, DO YOU THINK HE EVER MADE THEM FOR THE RIGHT REASONS? DO YOU AGREE WITH ANY OF THE CHOICES HE MADE? HOW COULD THE OUTCOME OF HIS STORY HAVE CHANGED? SHOULD IT HAVE? DO YOU THINK JAKOB HAD ANY GROWTH FROM THE BEGINNING OF HIS STORY TO THE END? DO YOU AGREE WITH THE WAY THE AUTHOR WROTE THE ENDING OF HIS STORY? WHY OR WHY NOT? IF YOU WERE THE AUTHOR, WOULD YOU HAVE WRITTEN HIS ENDING DIFFERENTLY?

6. IN WHAT WAYS ARE JAKOB AND LUCA SIMILAR? HOW ARE THEY DIFFERENT?

7. CLARA AND SAM ARE BELOVED SIDE CHARACTERS IN THIS NOVEL. DO YOU BELIEVE THEY PLAYED NECESSARY ROLES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STORY AND THE GROWTH OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS OF THE BOOK? IF YES, IN WHAT WAYS? IF NOT, WHAT PURPOSE DO YOU BELIEVE THEY HAD IN THIS STORY?

8. LUCA BATTLES TO SEE THE HEROIC BRAVERY WITHIN HIMSELF- AS MOST OF US DO. WHEN IS A TIME YOU HAVE BEEN FORCED TO STEP OUTSIDE OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE AND BE BRAVE? WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

9. WHAT DO THE DIFFERENT RELATIONSHIPS POPPY HAS WITH LUCA, JAKOB, CLARA, AND HER FATHER SAY ABOUT WHO POPPY IS AS A PERSON? WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT HER FROM THE DIFFERENT RELATIONSHIPS SHE HAS WITH EACH OF THEM?



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10. THROUGHOUT THE NOVEL, LUCA STRUGGLES WITH THE CONCEPT OF FORGIVENESS, AND HIS GREATEST TEST COMES NOT DURING THE WAR, BUT RATHER AFTER THE WAR WHEN HE HAS RETURNED HOME. IF YOU WERE LUCA, WOULD YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FORGIVE JAKOB FOR THE LIES, THE BETRAYAL, AND THE PAIN HE INFLICTED UPON THOSE YOU LOVE? WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO STEP INTO THE LIFE THAT LUCA CHOSE TO STEP INTO AT THE END? HOW DID IT MAKE YOU FEEL WHEN LUCA FOUND IT IN HIMSELF TO LOOK PAST HIS HURT AND EXPERIENCES DURING THE WAR AND CHOOSE POPPY AND THE LIFE SHE WAS ASKING HIM TO BECOME A PART OF? DID YOU AGREE WITH HIS CHOICE?

11. EACH CHARACTER FACED MANY DIFFICULT SITUATIONS AND CARRIED DEEP SOURCES OF PAIN, YET THERE IS A STRONG THEME THROUGHOUT THE BOOK OF 'STANDING BACK UP' AFTER EXPERIENCES KNOCK YOU DOWN. WHEN IS A TIME YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO STAND BACK UP WHEN SOMETHING KNOCKED YOU DOWN? WHAT WAS THE RESULT?

12. WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE SCENE IN THE BOOK? YOUR LEAST FAVORITE SCENE?

13. WHAT IS A THEME YOU FOUND THROUGHOUT THE BOOK THAT YOU CONNECTED WITH THE MOST? WHY?

14. DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING ABOUT HISTORY FROM THIS BOOK THAT YOU FOUND INTERESTING?

15. IF YOU COULD ASK THE AUTHOR ONE QUESTION ABOUT HER RESEARCH, THE PLOT, OR THE CHARACTERS, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

16. DO YOU BELIEVE THE AUTHORITIES THAT CLAIMED THE FACTORY EXPLOSION WAS AN ACCIDENT? OR DO YOU BELIEVE IT WAS ESPIONAGE?