

Book Club Questions

AFTER THE END

Clare Mackintosh

1. *After the End* follows both Max and Pip. Did you relate to one voice more than the other? Why?
2. Why don't Max and Pip agree about Dylan's future? How does this disagreement change their relationship? Were you surprised by either's opinion?
3. Discuss how the novel explores the power of our choices to change not only our lives, but those of our loved ones, and the lure of the question: What if? How has this question shaped your own life? Do you believe in fate, or do you think we make our own choices?
4. At one point, Leila "tries to imagine what it must feel like to have your own private hell made public" (p. 384). How does Max and Pip's relationship change once their dilemma is covered by the media? Do you think the story would have played out differently if they had been allowed to keep their decision between themselves? Why or why not?
5. How does the idea of losing Dylan change Pip? How does it change Max? Have you lost someone in your own life? How does this novel explore the idea of hope in times of grief?
6. Pip worries that loving Max isn't enough to make their future together right (p. 305). Do you agree that sometimes love isn't enough? If Max and Pip continue to love each other, why can't they be together? What does it mean to love someone but not be able to be with them?
7. Max, Pip, and the judge assigned to their case must all imagine Dylan's future and determine what is right for him. How do they each approach this choice? Do you think "evidence" should play a role in a decision like this? What about emotion? Have you ever had to make a decision in a situation with no "right" answer?
8. One question central to this novel, as the judge asks the court, is "What is a life?" (p. 384). How would you answer this question? Do you agree more with Max's interpretation, or with Pip's?
9. *After the End* suggests that sometimes the end is just another beginning. What does this mean? How does this idea shape the novel? How might you take this idea into your own life?
10. Were you surprised by the novel's ending? Why or why not? What do you think the final decision for Dylan should be?

