

SISTER DEAR

Discussion Questions

Please note these questions contain **spoilers**.

You may wish to review them after you've finished the novel.



1. How much did Eleanor's upbringing influence her personality, behavior and obsessions? If her childhood had been different, what might have happened instead?
2. What do you make of Bruce and Sylvia keeping Stan's identity from Eleanor? In what situation do you think that choice might be justified?
3. How do you think the story would have unfolded if Eleanor hadn't taken Victoria's ring? Did that moment decide her fate, or do you think it was something else? If so, what?
4. What do you think Eleanor was most terrified of? How did Victoria use those fears to her advantage? What, if anything, was Victoria afraid of?
5. Victoria and Eleanor both seemed to turn out like their mothers, whether they wanted to or not. Might this be inevitable? Do you think sociopathy runs in either of the families, and if so, what are you basing that observation on?
6. Did your allegiances switch from Eleanor to Victoria or vice versa—and back again? Why and when? Was there a point where you felt sorry for Eleanor or do you believe she got what she deserved?
7. What scene was the most pivotal in the story for you? How would the novel have changed if it had been different or hadn't taken place? What did you expect to happen?
8. What surprised you the most? What didn't you see coming? What was obvious?
9. At what point did you realize Victoria had manipulated Eleanor into doing her bidding? What could Eleanor have done to escape her half sister's clutches and when?
10. At the end, Victoria says, "This whole 'good triumphs bad' shit is nothing but an illusion, a complete fantasy. It's what people tell themselves, and each other, to hide from the truth because admitting the world is a despicable place, full of greed and hatred, is too terrifying for most." What do you make of that?

11. How do you feel about stories where evil wins, at least temporarily?
12. What do you expect will happen next to Eleanor, Lewis and Victoria? How do you think Gemma will grow up? How much impact will Victoria have on her? What can Eleanor do to protect her daughter?