

Book Club Questions for *Smash all the Windows*

In order to provide book clubs with thought-provoking questions, it is necessary to reveal important aspects of the plot. We suggest that you finish the book before you read on.

- What first drew you into the book? The blurb? The first sentence or paragraph? Why?
- How did you experience the book? Were you engaged immediately, or did it take you a while to get into it?
- Did the book take you outside your comfort zone? If so, how?
- Who was your favourite character/s and why?
- Which character would you most like to invite to dinner this evening and why? What would you hope to learn from him/her?
- Were there any characters you loved to hate?
- Who is/are the hero(es) and why?
- Can it be said that there are villains in a story like this?
- What do you think the book had to say about survival and being a survivor?
- How effective was the author's technique of using the interview as way to introduce Jules Roche?
- Why might the author have chosen to tell the story the way she did -and what difference did it make in the way you read or understood it?
- In the UK, there is a taboo about speaking about the dead, and yet the living find ways to keep connections with their loved ones. Of those depicted – Maggie's starling, Donovan finding the goggles and Donovan and the George's discovery of the video – which resonated with you the most?
- How did you feel about the author's depiction of the disaster? Did you find the way in which she showed it from multiple points of view effective, or were any of these a distraction?
- Memory is of particular significance in the novel. We have Gina creating her false memories through constant repetition, Tamsin beating herself up about her inability to remember her brother and Donovan's hoard of precious memories. Thinking about this, what do you think the author is trying to say about the truth?
- One of the questions that the book asks is who is a victim? Did you agree that with Jules's wider interpretation when he says to Maggie, "There are not just fifty-nine victims. You are a victim, I am a victim, my son is a victim. And if your Rosie is a victim, then every other person who work at London Underground, they are also a victim. The police, the paramedic, the ambulance men..."
- What role do you think Victim Thirty-four played in the novel?
- Did you enjoy the use of art in the novel? What worked/didn't work for you?
- Given that the readers knows about the most significant event in the book from the outset, were there enough revelations to hold your attention? What was the most significant revelation for you in the story and why?
- Are there any moments in the novel that have stayed with you?

- The results of a recent survey of UK readers confirm that readers prefer books that they learn something from. What, if anything, did you feel you learned from *Smash all the Windows*?
- Did the book change the way you think about individual and collective responsibility?
- Which three words describe how you feel, having finished *Smash all the Windows*?
- What did the title come to mean to you by the end of the novel?
- Were you satisfied with the book's ending? Did the novel leave any questions open-ended that you'd like to know the answer to?
- Pretend you're writing a blurb for the cover of the book. What would you say?
- If you were a casting director for a film/TV version, who would you cast in the lead roles?
- What would you tweet (in 140 characters) about this book?
- Does the book remind you of any other novels you've read?
- If you had to halve the size of your book collection, would this book stay or go?
- If you could ask the author a question, what would it be?