



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Start the Conversation

1. Clover is incredibly empathetic. For an introvert with social anxiety, how do you think Clover was able to gain this empathy for others?
2. Clover believes that one of the reasons that death is such a scary topic for people is because no one really talks about death in Western society. Do you agree with Clover? Were you apprehensive about reading this book because it was about death? Did your opinions change?
3. Clover believes she has had trouble forging connections with others because of her job as a death doula. Why do you think death is such a taboo topic? How is Western society different from others in this sense?
4. When Clover's grandpa dies, she is diagnosed with "chronic grief" because she hasn't "gotten over" her grief within six months. Why do you think that we classify grief as a finite thing that needs to be overcome? Has your perception of grief shifted at all after reading this novel?
5. What do you think are the most important lessons Clover learns from her clients about how to support someone who is grieving or dying?
6. Sylvie is the first real friend her own age that Clover has as an adult. What is it about Sylvie that allows Clover to lower her guard and connect with another person? Discuss Clover's evolution when it comes to opening herself up to human connections.
7. Clover would rather not know when she's going to die, agreeing that even if you knew, you would just live the same miserable life with death hanging over your head. Why do you think Clover has such a negative view of life? Would you like to know when you'll die?
8. Sebastian's family doesn't tell Claudia that she's dying, opting to keep her in the dark. Do you think this is an ethical thing to do? How common do you think something like this is today?
9. When Clover does finally acknowledge her regrets, she realizes she's been "living out of habit", spending too much of her life accepting others' perception of herself, rather than who she believes herself to be. How does Clover's character shift after she begins to reevaluate herself? What does "living out of habit" mean to you?
10. Leo tells Clover that the secret to a beautiful death is living a beautiful life – putting your heart out there, letting it get broken, taking chances and making mistakes. How would you define what it means to "live a beautiful life?"
11. Brammer uses flashbacks to give insight into Clover's personality and livelihood. How do you think these events shaped who she is today?