

Reading Group Questions

1. Lily and Janks both come from backgrounds where their opportunities were limited. What elements of a person's background can affect their ability to get ahead?
2. Early on, Lily says that her daughter, Jewelee, has become 'too good for both of us'. Do you think Jewelee understands the sacrifices that were made for her? How does she show this? Do children in general appreciate what their parents do for them at the time?
3. Lily and Shannon see into people's lives as they clean their houses. Did you find them judgemental about their clients? Did you have favourite clients or ones you particularly disliked? Why?
4. Janks decides to borrow money for Jewelee's school trip. Would this have been worth it if the chain of events he sets off didn't happen?
5. In desperation, Lily takes a radical step to get the money to pay back the bikies. What do you think about her action?
6. Did you find the settings of the novel realistic? How do they correlate with places in your city?
7. By the end of the novel, which characters gained your sympathy and why?
8. What would you say are the major themes of the book? What do you think of the author's exploration of these themes?
9. One survey says that forty-seven per cent of people have had household arguments about cleaning. How is the cleaning in your house divided? If you hire a cleaner, do you 'clean' before the cleaner comes?
10. Cleaners have an intimate knowledge of their clients' personal habits. How do you see your relationship with your cleaner, if you have one?