

THINGS WE DO IN THE DARK: Book Club Questions

1. There's a 29-year age difference between Paris and her husband, Jimmy. Do you believe she's telling the truth when she insists she didn't marry him for his money? And if it wasn't about the money, what do you think the attraction was for her?
2. Ruby Reyes was granted parole after serving 25 years of a life sentence for the murder of her lover, Charles Baxter, after it was revealed that Charles himself was a serial sexual predator. Do you think Ruby's parole was justified?
3. On Joey's 12th birthday, Charles gave Joey a ruby necklace that matched her mother's. Given her history with Charles, why do you think Joey continued to wear the necklace after he died?
4. After she graduated from high school, Joey left Maple Sound for Toronto. Why do you think she chose to move back to her hometown, when she could have started fresh anywhere she wanted?
5. After Drew and Simone moved to Vancouver, Joey had a hard time paying the rent by herself. What do you think of her choice to become a dancer at the Golden Cherry? Do you agree with Drew that she should have just found herself a roommate?
6. Do you think Ruby was an abusive mother to Joey as a result of her own relationship with Lola Celia? After all, Lola Celia's other daughter (Tita Flora) wasn't abusive towards her three sons. How much of Ruby's behaviors are nurture, versus nature?
7. After Ruby was arrested, Joey went to live with her aunt and uncle. Later, when her social worker later asked if she was comfortable being around Tito Micky, Joey lied and said she was fine. Do you think Deborah suspected what Joey's uncle was capable of? And if so, why didn't she transfer Joey immediately to another family?
8. After setting fire to the basement apartment, Joey left Toronto with everyone believing she was dead. Do you think it's forgivable that she never told Drew, the one person who really cared about her, that she was alive?
9. Do you feel any sympathy for Elsie, once she reveals the truth about how Jimmy actually died?
10. Paris never did have children with Jimmy, or anyone else. Do you think she'd be a good mother if she ever decided to have kids?
11. Do you think that Paris and Drew will end up together?