

CAITLIN STARLING

Last to Leave the Room

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Tamsin's inaction plays a major role throughout the novel. What aspects of Tamsin's character lead to this inaction?
2. The subsidence in San Siroco was most prominent in Tamsin's basement, and caused by her research in the dome. As Tamsin spiraled deeper, the subsidence worsened. How can our relationship to ourselves and our inner turmoil affect the world around us?
3. Before reading this novel, what were your previous conceptions of doppelgängers? If you were faced with your own doppelgänger, would you trust it? What about a doppelgänger of your friend or loved one? Tamsin's immediate reaction is to run tests on Prime. Would you react the same way?
4. Height and depth are major themes in the novel, as are freedom and confinement. How does location play a role in Tamsin's freedom?
5. Tamsin's ambition and intellect causes her to live an incredibly isolated life. Think about your own experiences with isolation. How does it cause us to face unseen parts of ourselves?
6. At the end of chapter 36, Lachlan rejects Tamsin: "She thinks that Tamsin's desires aren't worth responding to because they're the desires of a broken thing." Discuss Lachlan's actions and what she may have been feeling in this moment.
7. Did you find Tamsin or Prime to be more "likeable"? Why did you feel that way? Did your opinion change over the course of the novel?
8. Companies resembling Myrica Dynamics operate within our society to a certain extent, and we swing between the narrative of tech geniuses come to save us all, or evil scientists taking us closer to destruction. What are the benefits and drawbacks of these narratives? Do we put too much faith in technology and industry, or do our fears of advances gone wrong hold us back?
9. Lachlan and Tamsin are both strong characters with antisocial traits. Is Lachlan more equipped to handle life than Tamsin?
10. When faced with her double, Tamsin initially attempts to contain, analyze, and solve the problem herself, instead of reaching out for assistance. Do you agree with her decisions? What would you do in her place?
11. At the end of the novel Tamsin is faced with a choice: to gain knowledge of how to escape this world, or endure the pain of learning how to live in this world. If you had the option, would you choose to open the door?

