

HIGH SEASON

Discussion Questions

1. How did the storytelling and the alternating timelines impact your reading experience and work to build tension and suspense?
2. What role does social media play in this novel, and how does it affect the characters? Do you think Josie would have gotten justice earlier if social media and technology had been as advanced as it is in the 2024 timeline? On the other hand, has technology—and its ability to improve sharing information—made solving a case more difficult in any way?
3. “[T]he real Tamara. A person whose life was, for so long, overshadowed by the story of her death.” (page 363) Are you drawn to the true crime genre? If so, why? What do you think is ethically important to include/convey when telling a true crime story?
4. How does Imogen’s character evolve, and why does she ultimately decide to retire her account? What is the significance of the comments, and why do you think she disabled them on her last post?
5. Why do you think Tamara and Blake felt there must be a “bad” and “good” twin? Do you believe external factors caused this line of thinking, and did they always view each other this way? What do you think the novel suggests about recognizing gray areas, rather than thinking purely in black and white?
6. In what ways does the pink house become a character within the novel?
7. What do you think of the current justice system in the U.S.? Do you know of anyone who was wrongfully convicted of a crime that they did not commit? What kind of people tend to be victims of this, and why do you think that is? How does this shape their future?
8. How are Blake and Hannah driven (and blinded) by their desperation to move up in the class hierarchy, and what do you think they were seeking? Do you think the Drayton family’s status limited Tamara’s ability to be her authentic self?
9. Why do you think Hannah and Josie were able to reconcile after twenty years, despite everything that had happened between them? How is the sea a part of their friendship? Do you think there’s an intrinsic difference between friends you make in childhood and adolescence and friends you make as an adult?
10. Nina is haunted by the power her memory as a five-year-old held over Josie’s life trajectory. How does she come to realize that her memory of Tamara’s death was distorted, and how does she proceed to correct any wrongs?
11. “When her son was born, Hannah had been scared of what he might become. But when she watched her daughter, she was scared of something else. The things that she might say yes to, even when she didn’t want to. The lies she might believe. The lies she might be forced to tell.” (page 352) Why do you think Hannah’s fears are assigned to these specific genders? What do you make of this?
12. How did the end of the novel, especially the final chapter, make you feel? How were you left thinking about the various relationships that evolved over the course of the story?

