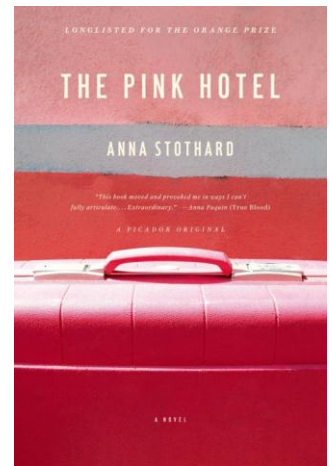


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Reading Group Gold

The Pink Hotel

by Anna Stothard



- 1) *"I'm usually very good at being invisible."* Why do you think the protagonist never refers to herself by name in the novel, and why does she choose not to report others using her name?
- 2) From grubby baseball caps to knee-high boots and silk dresses, clothing is used to explore identity in *The Pink Hotel*. How is the main character's shifting sense of herself reflected in her wardrobe?
- 3) *"Los Angeles is a city of sideways glances – over shoulders, through car windows..."* Los Angeles has been described as almost a character in the novel, would you agree?
- 4) Texture and touch are recurring themes in *The Pink Hotel*. In what ways does the girl's quest in and around Los Angeles explore different kinds of physicality?
- 5) Lily is present as an absence in *The Pink Hotel*. The daughter only knows her mother through a puzzle of other people's descriptions, letters and photographs. Do you have a sense of Lily's character by the end of the novel? If so, what components of her character did you find most memorable?
- 6) There are plans to make *The Pink Hotel* into a movie. Can you imagine it as one? If so, what elements of the book did you find filmic?
- 7) *"I slept unexpectedly deeply in David's bed, falling into a well of nervous unconscious."* David and the girl are both going through damaged, shifting stages in their lives. Do you think they help each other grow and heal at throughout the novel, or is it a toxic relationship? Might it last?
- 8) *"I liked the relief of the cold air forced sharply into my lungs and the respite of traceable pain on my skin rather than the fleeting and invisible map of pleasure that seems to happen with love and affection."* The book explores intimacy in many forms. Does the girl learn to accept tenderness, or is she always searching for pain? Do you sympathize with her despite her flaws?
- 9) Does the climactic revelation of David's real relationship to Lily take you by surprise? How did you feel when you found out, and did it change your opinion of David and Lily's characters?
- 10) Can you speculate on how the girl's life will go after the novel is finished? Is she on the path to escaping her mother's shadow, or the opposite?



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About the Author

Anna Stothard studied English at Oxford and then moved to Los Angeles, where she was awarded a screenwriting scholarship with the masters program at the American Film Institute. She is currently living in Chalk Farm, London, and writing her next novel.

Reading group guide written by Anna Stothard