



Book club questions for Hotel 21

1. Noelle refers to herself as a “taker of things” but is she really simply a thief? Do you forgive her? And if so, why?
2. What are the main themes in the book? And what do they say about the chaotic state of being human?
3. Noelle’s unique kleptomania is a response to childhood trauma. If she hadn’t started “taking things” what do you think would have happened to her?
4. Other than being a love interest, what is Phil’s deeper role in Noelle’s journey?
5. You could say this is a story about healing by becoming whole. Are Mali, Gaby, Phil, Rose, Julia, and Fatima aspects of Noelle’s personality that she needs to integrate in order to heal? If so, what are their roles?
6. What are the references to good and evil in the book and how do they impact Noelle’s journey?
7. What are the themes around parenting? Do they resonate with you?
8. Is Noelle brave? If so, why?

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9. Noelle's mother had the ability to pose as someone other than her true self in public, and, in essence, live a double life. Do you ever feel sympathy for her, and if so, why? Does she deserve our sympathy?

10. What is Noelle's final assessment of her mother, Erica, after she dies? What does this say about human nature and being a good person?

11. Noelle's saving grace is her ability to read people (she has a very high emotional intelligence). Is this a natural ability or do you think she has been forced to develop these skills over time in order to serve her needs? Are human beings able to develop certain skills when it is a necessity to survive? Would she not be as good at reading people if she hadn't experienced a traumatic childhood?

12. Hotel 21 is set in 2019. Given that the global pandemic crisis began in 2020, where do you think Noelle would be today? If she hadn't met the women in Hotel 21, how do you think she would have coped with Covid and lockdowns?

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