



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR TRICKS BY ELLEN HOPKINS

1. Discuss the different characters in *Tricks* and their motivations for entering the world of prostitution. How do their backgrounds, personalities, and circumstances influence their decisions?
2. Explore the themes of exploitation and vulnerability in the novel. How do the characters fall prey to manipulation and coercion? In what ways do societal factors contribute to their vulnerability?
3. Consider the novel's unique verse format. How does Ellen Hopkins use poetry to convey the emotions and experiences of the characters? How does this format enhance or detract from your understanding of the story?
4. Reflect on the role of family dynamics in the characters' lives. How do familial relationships, or lack thereof, shape their decisions and behaviors? Discuss the impact of parental neglect, abuse, or dysfunction on the characters' paths.
5. Discuss the portrayal of addiction in *Tricks*. How do drugs and alcohol serve as coping mechanisms for the characters? What insights does the novel offer into the cycle of addiction and its impact on individuals and their loved ones?
6. Reflect on the societal attitudes and stigma surrounding sex work. How do the characters internalize or resist these judgments? Discuss the challenges they face in reconciling their actions with societal expectations and norms.
7. Despite the dark subject matter, *Tricks* also offers glimpses of hope and resilience. Identify moments of strength and growth for the characters. How do they find resilience in the face of adversity?
8. Many of the characters in *Tricks* have experienced trauma in various forms. Explore the effects of trauma on their mental health, relationships, and sense of self. How do they cope with and attempt to heal from their traumatic experiences?
9. Discuss the portrayal of love and relationships in the novel. How do the characters' romantic relationships, friendships, and connections with others influence their experiences and decisions?
10. Consider the broader social commentary offered by *Tricks*. How does the novel shed light on issues such as poverty, inequality, and the exploitation of vulnerable populations? In what ways does it challenge readers to confront uncomfortable truths about society?

Discussion questions generated by ChatGPT.



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