



Colorado Book Club Resource

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR KNIFE: MEDITATIONS AFTER AN ATTEMPTED MURDER BY SALMAN RUSHDIE

1. How does Rushdie describe his experience of the attempted murder? What insights does he offer into the psychological and emotional impact of such an event?
2. In what ways does Rushdie's account provide a deeper understanding of trauma and recovery?
3. What does the book reveal about Rushdie's resilience and will to survive? How does he convey his journey towards healing?
4. How does the theme of survival manifest in both the physical and psychological aspects of his narrative?
5. How does "Knife" address the issue of freedom of expression? What arguments does Rushdie make about the importance of this freedom in the face of violence and censorship?
6. How does the attempted murder influence Rushdie's views on censorship and the power of the written word?
7. How does Rushdie navigate the intersection of his personal and public identities in the aftermath of the attack?
8. What does the book suggest about the relationship between an artist's work and their personal life?
9. How does Rushdie's writing style in "Knife" compare to his previous works? What narrative techniques does he employ to convey his story?
10. Discuss the structure of the book. How do the meditative essays and reflections contribute to the overall narrative?
11. How does Rushdie reflect on the long-term impact of the fatwa issued against him? In what ways does he address its influence on his life and work?
12. What insights does the book offer into the broader socio-political context surrounding the fatwa?
13. What does "Knife" reveal about Rushdie's views on the role of art and literature in society?
14. How does he discuss the power of storytelling in the face of violence and attempts to silence dissenting voices?



This discussion sheet is property of the Colorado State Library's Book Club Resource. Please return this sheet along with all of the books in the book bag to the Colorado State Library – Courier Code C912. Contact bookclub@coloradovirtuallibrary.org with questions or concerns.



Colorado Book Club Resource

15. How does Rushdie describe the support (or lack thereof) he received from friends, family, and the literary community? What does this reveal about human connections in times of crisis?
16. How do his relationships evolve in the wake of the attempted murder?
17. What philosophical questions does Rushdie grapple with in "Knife"? How does he reflect on life, mortality, and the meaning of existence?
18. How do his meditations provide a broader commentary on the human condition?
19. What do you think Rushdie intended to achieve with "Knife"? How successful was he in conveying his message?
20. How does the book challenge the reader's perceptions about violence, resilience, and the power of the human spirit?

Discussion questions generated by ChatGPT.



This discussion sheet is property of the Colorado State Library's Book Club Resource. Please return this sheet along with all of the books in the book bag to the Colorado State Library – Courier Code C912. Contact bookclub@coloradovirtuallibrary.org with questions or concerns.