

Book Club Discussion Guide

The Blue Prussian by Eve Penrose

IMPRESSIONS

- 1. What are your takeaways and general impressions of the book? Were you engaged immediately, or did it take you a while to get into it?
- 2. What major emotional response did the story evoke in you?
- 3. Did the book feel real to you?
- 4. Did the book strike you as original?
- 5. Did the book affect your mood as you read it? Did the book spook you in any way?
- 6. What did you think after reading how prolific poisoning has been in history?
- 7. Which scene stuck with you the most?
- 8. How did your opinion of the book change as you read it?
- 9. Was there anything new that you learned or that you found particularly interesting in the book?
- 10. Would you ever consider re-reading the book? Why or why not?

CHARACTERS

- 11. Which characters did you like best?
- 12. Which characters did you like least?
- 13. Which character did you relate to, or empathize with, the most?
- 14. Was the narrator's voice compelling?
- 15. If you had to trade places with one character, who would it be?
- 16. Did any of the characters remind you of someone you know?
- 17. Did any of the dialogue between the characters strike you as poignant? How about funny?
- 18. What do you think happens to the characters after the book's official ending?
- 19. Do you think that Blake and Brian get together or remain friends?
- 20. Are there any characters you'd like to meet?

PLOT & SETTING

- 21. Which scene is a pivotal moment in the story?
- 22. Which scene resonated with you most on a personal level?
- 23. How did the setting and the use of symbolism impact the story? Did the story generate suspense?
- 24. What places in the book would you most like to visit?
- 25. Did anything surprise you in the description of the Victorian era and *The Golden Age of Poison?*
- 26. What struck you about the linkage of the antidote, Prussian blue, to the great works of art *The Starry Night* and *The Great Wave*—and to Castle Frankenstein?
- 27. What feelings did the startling discoveries in the Grey Lady and in Santa Rosa evoke?
- 28. Were there any parts of the plot that frustrated you?
- 29. What were the central themes of the book? How well did the author explore them?
- 30. It was important to the author to bring awareness to certain public policy matters. Did the book bring more awareness to you as a reader?

SEQUEL

- 31. Would you like to read the next book in this series?
- 32. What are some storylines you would like to read in the sequel?
- 33. Are there any characters you are rooting for in the sequel?
- 34. Are there any characters whom you'd like to play a more prominent role in the sequel?
- 35. Where else would you like to see Blake travel?
- 36. Are there other locations you would like to see in the sequel?
- 37. Are there any lingering questions left unanswered that the sequel should address?
- 38. What surprises and plot twists are you expecting from Milt (a/k/a The Blue Prussian) in the sequel?
- 39. Who would you cast to play each of the lead characters if the book were made into a movie?
- 40. If you could ask the author of the book anything, what would it be?



Thank you for reading The Blue Prussian!



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