



BOBN Book Club



BEARER OF BAD NEWS Discussion Starters

1. *Bearer of Bad News* (or BOBN, rhymes with "robin") is both the title of the novel and a job accepted by its protagonist, Lucy. Should this be an actual profession? Would you pay someone else to deliver news for you?
2. Lucy experiences very different dynamics with Julian, Chris, and David. Were you satisfied with her romantic status at the end of the novel? How did it conform with or differ from the usual portrayal of a happy ending?
3. How does Lucy's scar from childhood relate to themes in the novel?
4. Contrast Lucy's acts of theft to David's research on missing items to the emerald necklace changing hands in very different circumstances. What factors determine rightful ownership?
5. Can a novel's setting become a character in its own right? How did the Italian Dolomites impact the plot and your reading experience?
6. Did BOBN change or expand your views on how women participated in resistance efforts against Hitler?
7. Lucy, Adam, and Coco are estranged from family members. Do you agree with how each handles their family dynamics?
8. BOBN combines humor with more serious themes. Did you like the mix of genres in the novel? Why or why not?
9. The Department of Lost Things operated outside the law. Were the Department's actions ethical? Would you be alarmed if such an organization were real instead of fictional?
10. Hilde describes Cassi as posting "orchestrated fantasies" on social media that make viewers feel bad about their lives. Is she right? Do influencers add value to society?
11. Coco tells Taffy that her entire life's work is about the universality of human rights. Is she right that human rights are meaningless if they do not apply to everyone equally? Are there exceptions?
12. Liane and Giovanna both made difficult decisions at the end of the war. Do you think their choices were right, wrong, or somewhere in the middle?
13. Providing access to accurate information was central to The Stars' resistance efforts. With modern technology, how is the situation the same or different today? What does it mean to broadcast "the truth"?
14. Is there ever a moral obligation to act to help others? In your opinion, which characters met or failed to meet this standard?
15. Flower Girl noted that "all of us doing something – small things, good things, kind things, pure things – that's what moves mountains." Do you agree?

Thank you for reading!