

## BOOKCLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### FOR THEN SHE ROARS BY VANESSA EVETTS

1. Reading *Then She Roars*, you bear witness to the silent thoughts of a woman struggling with a potentially terminal illness. How did this impact your reading of the novel?
2. Discuss the prevalence of cancer and the increasing epidemic of serious and debilitating illness in the world today.
3. Discuss the moral dilemma that existed for Avery, starting a new relationship knowing she had a potentially life-threatening illness.
4. What was your first impression of Avery? How did this change throughout the novel? Discuss.
5. How do you feel about the concept of 'Collateral Beauty' as described by Annie? How is it different from saying 'everything happens for a reason'?
6. Was there a scene, moment or conversation in the book that captured you?
7. Vanessa Evetts writes with unusual insight. If you could sit down with the author, what would you ask? (Feel free to post your questions on her Facebook author page or Goodreads).
8. Overcoming fear was a strong theme throughout the novel. Is there something that is holding you back from living your best life? What are some steps you could take to overcome it?
9. Discuss the main turning points in the novel, which gave Avery a renewed sense of the value of her life and the impact of her presence in other people's lives. How can we learn from her experience to ensure we're a positive influence in the lives of others?
10. How much did Avery's spirit – her lioness – play a part in her survival?
11. As a reader, did you connect with Avery's lioness as a character in the novel?
12. What could you take away from Avery and Harry's story to better serve those who are journeying through tragedy or serious illness?
13. There's a subtle spiritual sub-theme throughout this novel. Discuss your own beliefs and experiences with the presence of 'a gentle whisper', or 'roaring courage' in times of struggle. If you're discussing with others, please do so with grace and love, understanding

that everyone has had different experiences in life, which have led them to their worldview and beliefs.

14. Discuss Harry's approach to his Christianity in relation to your experience of faith, religion and other believers. *'Life is too complex to put people in boxes. Believers come in all shapes and sizes.'* How did this impact your reading of the novel as a believer or non-believer?
15. Discuss Harry's initial response to Avery refusing chemotherapy during her pregnancy. How would you feel as a loved one of someone who had to make a life and death decision like this? How would you respond if they made a choice that you disagreed with?
16. If you were Avery, would you have made a different decision? If so, why?
17. How does the author's literary style contribute to the message or the story? Give an example.
18. The author actively fought against Avery's death in the writing of her story, desperately wanting her happily ever after. Sadly, the integrity of Avery's journey won out over the author's wishes. How did you feel about the final few chapters of Avery's life?
19. If you could rewrite her story, or part thereof, what would it look like?
20. If *Then She Roars* was to be made into a film and you were the casting director, who would you cast?
21. Discuss the question 'Can joy and despair co-exist? Life and death?'
22. The overarching questions of this novel were:
  - *'How do we find value in a life we know we are losing?'*
  - *'Can love indeed conquer death?'*

Do you think the author did these questions justice in the telling of Avery and Harry's story? Discuss in relation to your own lives and experiences.