

BOOK CLUB GUIDE



BLAME THE DOGS

Laura Martin

QUESTIONS

1. Les Chiennes, the rebel group, justify their acts against perpetrators because they are standing up for women. They are “correcting behavior in the dog pack”, as Vic described it.
 - Do you agree with this?
 - Have you ever helped someone even though it meant breaking certain rules?
2. As the story begins, you learn that Herbert has been taking in pupils every now and then. He has been focusing on individuals who are struggling, who find themselves at rock bottom.
 - Why do you think he left his professional obligations and became a life mentor of sorts?
 - What do you think was the central trigger of this choice?
3. As a journalist, Amelia is triggered by corporate fraud, corruption and bullies. As Vic, she chases sexual assailants.
 - Where do you see the link between those types of journalistic themes?
 - For each of them, discuss whether you feel society has progressed or regressed.



QUESTIONS

4. Vic is internally conflicted: on the one hand, she thrives in the sisterhood she created with Les Chiennes. On the other hand, she feels the responsibility of the young women's safety rest on her shoulders.
 - Do you feel she acts irresponsibly by pulling in women in their twenties, and having them engage in the kind of attacks Les Chiennes are known for? Or do you feel this is entirely the responsibility and free choice of the women themselves?
 - Do you feel that different generations of women these days have a different approach to feminism and the role of women? Do any examples of your own life spring to mind?
 - If Les Chiennes really existed, do you think it could become "popular" for that age group to join or support, and why?
5. Amelia / Vic increasingly struggles with blurry visions and unsettling nightmares: a result of embodying two contrasting identities.
 - Which identity do you feel is truer to her real self?
 - How does each of her identities evolve throughout the story?
 - What do you feel is at the heart of someone's identity? What makes us who we are?
 - Do you remember instances in your life where you adopted a new / different identity or role (with or without putting on a dog mask ;-))? Did you, at any time, feel like you were losing yourself a little?



QUESTIONS

- 6.** The narrator Elvis has some unusual views on life and the role he plays in other people's lives. He is convinced that one can manipulate the actions of others, and the ensuing events, how you please—as long as you pull the right strings.
 - a. Do you consider Elvis a protagonist or antagonist, and why?
 - b. Do you agree with Elvis?
- 7.** Loss is a central theme throughout the story. In this case, Amelia, Herbert, and even Elvis struggle with the loss of the same woman: Janey.
 - How do you feel the three of them deal with loss differently? And where do you suspect these differences come from?
 - How does Amelia's journey as a dog owner fit into this?
- 8.** When Amelia interviews Herbert at his house, the dialogue gets heated over whether Herbert had known about Jack's character and left him in charge anyway. She argues that Herbert stayed away not because of the business, but because of Jack.
 - Do you agree that this is a likely scenario?
 - Do you feel we sometimes undertake things with one motive, while not admitting our true motive, perhaps not even to ourselves?
 - Would you say that, in a way, this is comparable to Amelia in her role as Vic, as she led Les Chiennes under the pretense of justice for women who had been assaulted, whereas in fact it was about her very own mother?

QUESTIONS

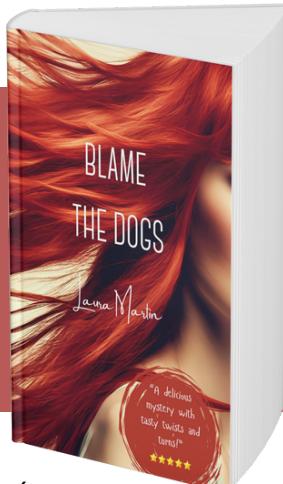
9. Who is your favorite character in the story (can be protagonist or antagonist!) and why?



10. Now go to: <https://mybook.to/WNRBkLu> → scroll down and leave your review. As an indie author, I rely even more on the honest opinion of my readers. Now that you have read and discussed the book, you should have a fairly detailed impression. When you write your review, be specific and let your identity as an avid reader shine through. Those who are comfortable can read their review out to the others. *THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!*



11. If you like, you could discuss what your expectations/hopes are for book 2 (Wake The Dogs), which is due late 2025.



END OF
GUIDE