

Skokie Public Library's Book Discussion Guide

LITTLE BEE by Chris Cleave

- What does Udo changing her name to Little Bee symbolize for you? Why does she pick this name and how does it relate to the story? How does Little Bee's new name offer her protection? What is the significance of her revealing her true name to Charlie at the end?
- Why does Little Bee want to tell the stories of her experiences to the girls back home? What purposes do they serve in the novel?
- How did it affect your reading experience to have two narrators? Did you prefer the voice of one above the other? What did you learn from the different perspectives?
- How is Little Bee's identity shaped by her refugee status? How do the places we come from shape us and what does it mean to belong? What efforts does little Bee make to adapt to British culture?
- What does this book say about surviving horrific events? How does each character deal with violence and grief?
- Of Sarah and Little Bee, who do you think is the stronger or more resilient woman? Why? Did you find Sarah harder to like than Little Bee?
- Little Bee figures out the best way to kill herself in any given situation just in case "the men come suddenly." But when the men finally do come at the end of the book, she does not think about killing herself before she is taken. Why do you think that is? What has changed?
- How do you feel about Andrew's actions on the Nigerian beach? What about Sarah's actions? How did each of them deal with the aftermath of their choices? Why was it so much harder for Andrew?
- What purpose does Charlie's character serve in the novel? Why do Charlie and Little Bee bond so easily? What are the similarities between these two characters?
- The end of the book is ambiguous. What do think happened? Do you see it as a hopeful or a tragic conclusion?



Skokie Public Library

5215 Oakton Street
Skokie, Illinois 60077
847.673.7774 / 847.673.7797 fax
www.skokieliibrary.info

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