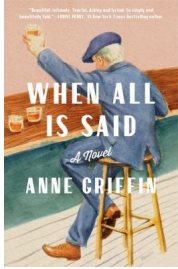


Books by the Stack



When All is Said by Anne Griffin

An 84-year-old loner, sitting at a grand hotel bar in Ireland, toasts the five people who have meant the most to him while recalling unspoken losses and joys, a tragic secret and a fierce love.

Why you'll like it: *24 hour stories. Introspective. Nonlinear. Leisurely paced. Moving.*

About the Author: Anne Griffin is the winner of the John McGahern Award for Literature. Shortlisted for the Hennessey New Irish Writing Award and The Sunday Business Post Short Story Competition, Anne's work has been featured in, amongst others, The Irish Times and The Stinging Fly, and she had an eight year career at Waterstones. Anne lives in Ireland with her husband and son. When All Is Said is her debut novel.

Questions for Discussion

1. What does Maurice regret most in his life? Why do you think this is?
2. How would you describe Maurice and Sadie's relationship? Is it one you can understand?
3. Why would Thomas Dollard spent his life looking for the lost coin?
4. If Sadie were alive, What do you think she might say to Maurice about his regrets?
5. How would you describe the relationship between Maurice and his son Kevin? Is it unusual or typical? Why?
6. Why do you think wealth is important to Maurice? How has his upbringing influenced him?
7. When Maurice visits his son in the United States, what makes him uncomfortable and why?
8. Why do you think Maurice gives Jason Bruton more money for the sale of the Dollard land?
9. Whom does Maurice trust and why? Why do you think Maurice came to trust Emily?
10. Discuss Hugh and Amelia Dollard's relationship. Why do you think they stayed together?
11. Why do you think Emily trusted Maurice enough to allow him to invest in the business?
12. Maurice tells us why he fell in love with Sadie. But why do you think Sadie fell in love with him?
13. If Maurice could hear Sadie talk to him, just as he hears Molly, what do you think she'd say to him over the course of the evening?
14. Why do you think loneliness in the elderly is an issue in society?
15. What epitaph would you write for Maurice Hannigan?
16. Maurice tells the reader his fate at the start of the novel. What effect does this have on you as a reader? How did this impact the way you read the novel?

17. Why do you think Maurice made his final choice? What do you feel about that? What other choices could Maurice have made?

18. Of all of the characters in the book, who would you most list to sit down and have a drink with and why?

19. At the end of the night, was there anyone or anything that could have changed Maurice's mind?

20. If you were to toast the five most important people in your life, who would they be?

(Questions provided by Reading Group Choices)



www.grpl.org/BookClub