

BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

Weirdo by Cathi Unsworth

1. What did you originally think of the book title? Did your perception of what a “weirdo” is change as you got to know the characters?
2. How does the author create suspense by alternating between the past and present? In what way does it change how the mystery unfolds?
3. Sean had a difficult past in the Metropolitan Police Force. How does this influence his perspective as a private detective on Corrine Woodrow’s case?
4. Francesca Ryman is a significant connection for Sean. Does she help Sean, or is she as secretive as many other locals?
5. Sean consults and works with various local police officers and former police officers throughout the case. Which officers were helpful and which officers were not?
6. Debbie observes about Samantha Lamb: “This girl who looked so shining and pretty actually had a black cloud hanging over her head that was about to open up on her world. On all of their worlds” (p. 43). How does this come true?
7. Corrine has a troubled family life, and is often cast as an outsider. What makes Corrine different? How does this propel her into a relationship with Noj?
8. What connects Captain Swing’s, the pub, and the bookshop next door? Does the legend of Captain Swing parallel any of the characters in *Weirdo*?
9. How does Paul Gray’s first arrest of Corrine shape his viewpoint of her? What keeps Gray from speaking up about his true opinions of her?
10. Alcott, Pearson, and Gray are three characters that have vital information to support Corrine’s case. How were they prevented from sharing their stories?

11. What are recurring symbols of black magic in the novel? Who is the black magic directed towards and whom does it ultimately affect?
12. Why does Corrine paint the same image over and over again?
13. How does Rivett's prejudice propel the story? When did you suspect he was an unlawful cop?
14. There are two hidden identities that are revealed at the end of the book. Did you find this to be a satisfying end to the novel?