



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

Hotline by Dimitri Nasrallah

1. How did you experience the book? Were you engaged immediately, or did it take you a while to get into it? What elements captivated or discouraged you when reading the novel?
2. How did you feel as you followed Muna's journey—sad, confused, bored?
3. Which characters did you like least? How did Muna's interactions/relationships with these characters influence your feeling about them?
4. Has this novel changed you or broadened your perspective about a difficult issue? Muna comes from a different country as a single mother and has experienced war personally. Have you learned something new or been exposed to different ideas about people or a certain part of the world?
5. Consider the theme of identity in *Hotline*. What factors led to Muna changing her name to Mona? When or if does her identity change throughout the novel?
6. Muna finds it difficult to balance her new career and her role as a mother. Do you see any chance of Muna rebuilding her relationship with Omar?
7. Muna is a determined woman, but also has weaknesses. Many of her clients have deep insecurities and emotional issues. Which character in the book would you most like to meet? Did you find anyone's story particularly fascinating?
8. Muna's experience is not unique. If these setbacks and barriers happened to Muna, an educated, hardworking woman, consider the experience of other immigrants to Canada. How does that make you feel about Canada? What supports could we offer new immigrants?

These questions were created by Clarington Library, Museums & Archives staff to enhance your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Dimitri Nasrallah is the author of four novels. He was born in Lebanon in 1977, and lived in Kuwait, Greece, and Dubai before moving to Canada. His internationally acclaimed books have garnered nominations for CBC Canada Reads, the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, and the Grand Prix du Livre de Montréal, and won the Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction and the McAuslan First Book Prize. He is the fiction editor at Véhicule Press.

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