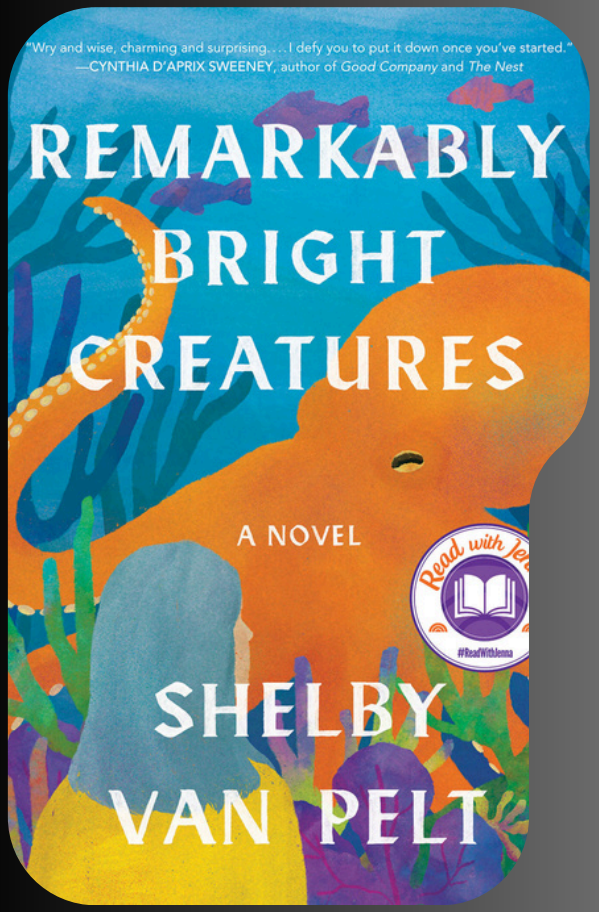

Remarkably Bright Creatures

SHELBY VAN PELT

Book Club Questions

1. HOW DID MARCELLUS'S UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE AS AN OCTOPUS SHAPE THE WAY YOU VIEWED THE HUMAN CHARACTERS IN THE STORY?
2. WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE WAY SHELBY VAN PELT PORTRAYED GRIEF IN THE NOVEL?
3. HOW DOES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MARCELLUS AND THE WIDOW, MARCELLUS, EVOLVE THROUGHOUT THE BOOK?
4. IN WHAT WAYS DOES THE AQUARIUM SETTING SERVE AS A METAPHOR FOR THE CHARACTERS' LIVES?
5. THE BOOK TOUCHES ON THE THEME OF HEALING—HOW DO THE CHARACTERS BEGIN TO HEAL OVER THE COURSE OF THE NOVEL?
6. DO YOU THINK MARCELLUS HAD A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN NATURE THAN THE HUMANS THEMSELVES?
7. HOW DOES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MARCELLUS AND HER SON DEVELOP?
8. WERE THERE ANY MOMENTS IN THE BOOK THAT MADE YOU LAUGH? WHAT MADE THOSE MOMENTS STAND OUT?
9. HOW DOES THE NOVEL CHALLENGE TRADITIONAL PERCEPTIONS OF ANIMALS? WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT OCTOPUSES THROUGH MARCELLUS'S EYES?
10. WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TITLE REMARKABLY BRIGHT CREATURES?
11. HOW DID THE BOOK'S PACING FEEL TO YOU? WAS THERE A PARTICULAR MOMENT IN THE STORY WHERE IT FELT LIKE EVERYTHING CLICKED INTO PLACE?
12. WHICH CHARACTER DID YOU MOST RELATE TO AND WHY? HOW DID THEIR JOURNEY AFFECT YOU?
13. THE BOOK EXPLORES THE IDEA OF UNEXPECTED CONNECTIONS—HOW DO YOU THINK THE NOVEL PORTRAYS THE POWER OF THESE CONNECTIONS?
14. HOW DOES MARCELLUS'S INTROSPECTION ABOUT HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS ADD DEPTH TO THE STORY?
15. WHAT ROLE DOES MEMORY PLAY IN THE STORY? HOW DO THE CHARACTERS' MEMORIES INFLUENCE THEIR ACTIONS AND DECISIONS?
16. HOW DOES THE SETTING OF THE SMALL TOWN CONTRIBUTE TO THE OVERALL ATMOSPHERE OF THE BOOK?
17. THE NOVEL BLENDS BOTH HUMOR AND SADNESS—DID YOU FIND IT BALANCED WELL?
18. THE CHARACTERS IN THE BOOK EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT TYPES OF LOSS—HOW DID THESE LOSSES SHAPE THEIR PERSONAL GROWTH THROUGHOUT THE BOOK?
19. WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE ENDING? WAS IT SATISFYING, AND WHAT DO YOU THINK IT SAYS ABOUT THE CHARACTERS' JOURNEYS?
20. IF YOU COULD ASK MARCELLUS ONE QUESTION, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?