



BEING ANTI-SOCIAL **Leigh K Cunningham**

Best Indie Books for 2013 (IndieReader)

Gold medal, Readers' Favorite Book Awards
(Chick Lit)

Gold medal, Reader Views Literary Awards
(Humor)

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BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the themes in Being Anti-Social?
2. How realistic was the characterization? Would you want to meet any of the characters and if so, what would you say to them?
3. Were the actions and responses of the characters in their various situations plausible?
4. What emotions did the story evoke in you?
5. Did any of the characters make you cry and if so, why?
6. Being Anti-Social is set in Melbourne, Australia. Did you get a sense of the lifestyle in this major Australian capital city?
7. What passage or storyline in Being Anti-Social stood out for you?
8. Did you learn something from Being Anti-Social you did not know before?
9. Did the story pull you in or did you have to force yourself to read it?
10. At what point in Being Anti-Social did you decide whether you liked it or not?
11. Did you expect the story to end the way it did?

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

1. Do you think Shannon was right to call Mace out on being 'anti-social' at the family gathering?
2. It doesn't take Mace long before she reveals what happened to her marriage to Ben. Does she come across as bitter or broken or both?
3. Mace is the fourth child of five. In chapter 2 she describes 'middle child' syndrome. Does birth order really play a part in our personality development and suitable careers? Is this evident in your family?
4. Mace's girlfriends have been her friends since school. She says they are a "habit" and she might not even like them anymore. Does the story support this viewpoint or contradict Mace?
5. Do you recognize any of Mace's friends - Amber, Erin, Sophie and Kimba - and their traits amongst your friends?
6. Is Mace avoiding relationships? If so, is this driven by pragmatism, fear or something else?
7. The relationships Mace finds herself in - Rudy, Zach, Thomas - all tend to share an element of dishonesty. Is she attracting what she thinks she deserves because of how her marriage ended?
8. Why does Mace prefer to be home alone?
9. Should family and friends leave her to her solitude or are they right to try and draw her out of it?
10. Is it assumed in society generally that single women who live alone must be lonely? If so, why does it seem difficult for people to accept this is a choice?
11. Does Mace have an issue with alcohol? If you think so, is this because she drinks alone, and 'drinking' is only accepted as a social activity?
12. How would you describe Mace's relationship with her mother?
13. Does your view of this relationship, between Mace and her mother, change after reading the letter in chapter 41?
14. How does Mace handle her mother's diagnosis? Why does she want to mend what she believes is broken?
15. The many compulsory gatherings of the Evans family are a source of angst for Mace yet her father and siblings, bar Shannon, seem to play an important role in her life. Is this the essence of 'family' as we know it?
16. Do you have a sibling like Shannon who you cannot relate to on any level?
17. Mace considers Oscar Wilde, the Irish writer and poet, her "mentor and life coach" and relies on his words of wisdom to guide her through life's obstacles. Is Oscar Wilde a suitable choice for a life coach for Mace? Why or why not?
18. Which Oscar Wilde quotes did you enjoy and why?
19. Mace decides to write an 'anti-wedding ritual' book. Each year she recycles her resolutions list. Is Mace easily distracted? Is this anything to do with being a middle child?
20. Mace remembers a lot of her dreams, which seem pertinent to what is happening in her life at the time. Are her dream interpretations accurate or does she tend to miss the lesson?
21. Is there a future for Mace and Rudy?