

This Bird Has Flown

Questions for Discussion

1. At the novel's beginning, Jane is struggling to write music. What do you think is holding her back? How does meeting Tom change things? Have you ever felt stalled on a project? How did you find inspiration?
2. When the novel begins, Jane Start feels she needs a second chance—in love, in music, in life. How does Alfie help her open the door to this possibility? In what other ways does Jane find new opportunities, and how does she have to address her past before she can move forward to seize that second chance?
3. Discuss the novel's many influences—from *Jane Eyre* to British rom-coms to classic rock and music of all stripes, and of course, Susanna Hoffs's own background as a performer. Did you catch other nods to pop culture as well? How do these threads come together in the larger story? Were there elements you enjoyed most?
4. How did the inclusion of song lyrics and mentions shape your read of *This Bird Has Flown*? Do you have a favorite song from the novel?
5. Discuss the writing style and language of the novel. Do you think Susanna's background in songwriting influences her prose?
6. Did you agree with Jane's decision in the end? Were you surprised by his choices? What about Jane's?

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7. As Jane's journey continues, she draws together a wide range of side characters. Who were some of your favorites? Did any other couples that formed in the novel surprise you?

8. Jane has a theory that "for some reason, we feel things more deeply, or, profoundly, on a plane. Something to do with the altitude. Or being captive, thirty thousand feet above the earth, untethered" (p. 47). How do you feel about traveling by plane? Have you had a pivotal moment—perspective- or even life-altering—while flying?

9. Discuss Jane's relationship with Jonesy. Has his interest in her music hurt or helped her career? What does he come to represent for Jane?

10. Throughout the novel, Jane struggles with a need for love: she's quick to fall into relationships. Why do you think Jane is so ready to leap? Did you see this as a redeeming quality in Jane's character, or a weakness? What does she learn by the end of the novel, about herself, and about falling in love?

11. *This Bird Has Flown* explores the many ways we can be haunted by the ghosts of our pasts. Who are some of these "ghosts" for Jane? In what ways do her past challenges help her find her way forward?