



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

Every Note Played by Lisa Genova

1. Why do you think Lisa Genova chose the title *Every Note Played*?
2. Richard and Karina were both classically trained pianists. Karina's true passion is playing jazz piano and Richard prefers classical music. How do their musical preferences reflect their personalities?
3. Karina wonders if she could "have seen the red flags through the thick haze of lust at twenty." Were there any warning signs that Richard wasn't the person he seemed?
4. Discuss the structure of *Every Note Played*. What's the effect of having the chapters alternate between Richard's life and Karina's? Does it help your understanding of the characters?
5. Richard comes to think of Bill as "equal parts brother, doctor, parent, and friend." How does he help Richard preserve his sense of dignity and humanity? What effect does Bill have on Karina?
6. While visiting Richard, Karina reflects on how "the story of their lives can be an entirely different genre depending on the narrator." Explain this statement.
7. Describe Richard's relationship with his brothers. Why is he reluctant to tell them of his diagnosis? What did you think of Tommy and Mikey? Were you surprised by Tommy's apology? If so, why?
8. How is Dr. George able to relate to Richard and put him at ease? Dr. George suggests that Richard consider recording "legacy messages." What do you think are some positive and negatives of leaving legacy messages?

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