

Book Club Discussion Guide



We Rip the World Apart by Charlene Carr, Page 1 (March 2024)

We Rip the World Apart

By Charlene Carr

About the author:

I love reading! I love writing! I love words!

Oh, wait. Did I say that above? When something's true, it's worth repeating.

I don't just love any old story (also referenced above). A good plot is key, a page turner is great, words weaved together in ways that make me stop and marvel are wonderful, but I need more.

I need some truth in my fiction.

You know those books that are almost impossible to put down, not because of some great mystery, or high-speed chase, or sexy scene, but because they're full of characters who enrage and delight you; Imperfect people in circumstances that could hit any one of us.

Characters full of human frailties who make awful, sometimes stupid choices ...

Then something shifts, and they make a choice that has you itching to stand up and cheer.

Or, at other times, you can't cheer, because too much has been lost and the price has been SOO high, but you nod your head, you understand where they're coming from, and you're satisfied, because sometimes that's all life offers us, and that's okay.

The books that you finish and still wonder about, because there were no fairy-tale endings, just a closing of that chapter in the character's life, with a lesson learned or a hurt resolved.

Book Club Discussion Guide



We Rip the World Apart by Charlene Carr, Page 2 (March 2024)

Yet beyond the pages you know there's so much more ...

Books that feel like they become a part of you.

Those are the books I love, and those are the books I set out to write.

Source: <https://www.charlenecarr.com/about2/>

About this book:

A sweeping multi-generational story about motherhood, race, and secrets in the lives of three women.

WE RIP THE WORLD APART follows the life of a young bi-racial woman, pregnant with a child she isn't sure she wants and struggling to make sense of and find healing from the generational trauma passed down to her through her family's experience of violence, specifically the loss of her brother, who was killed by police.

Weaving the women's stories across multiple timelines, *We Rip the World Apart* reveals the ways that simple choices, made in the heat of the moment and with the best of intentions, can have deep and lasting repercussions, especially when people remain silent.

Source: <https://www.charlenecarr.com/books/>

Discussion Questions:

(General fiction questions to get book club discussions off to a good start.)

Book Club Discussion Guide



We Rip the World Apart by Charlene Carr, Page 3 (March 2024)

1. How did you experience the book? Were you engaged immediately, or did it take you a while to "get into it"? How did you feel reading it—amused, sad, disturbed, confused, bored...?
2. Describe the main characters—personality traits, motivations, and inner qualities.
 - Why do characters do what they do?
 - Are their actions justified?
 - Describe the dynamics between characters (in a marriage, family, or friendship).
 - How has the past shaped their lives?
 - Do you admire or disapprove of them?
 - Do they remind you of people you know?
3. Are the main characters dynamic—changing or maturing by the end of the book? Do they learn about themselves, how the world works and their role in it?
4. Discuss the plot:
 - Is it engaging—do you find the story interesting?
 - Is this a plot-driven book—a fast-paced page-turner?
 - Does the plot unfold slowly with a focus on character?
 - Were you surprised by complications, twists & turns?
 - Did you find the plot predictable, even formulaic?
5. Talk about the book's structure.
 - Is it a continuous story...or interlocking short stories?
 - Does the time-line move forward chronologically?
 - Does time shift back & forth from past to present?
 - Is there a single viewpoint or shifting viewpoints?
 - Why might the author have chosen to tell the story the way he or she did?
 - What difference does the structure make in the way you read or understand the book?

Book Club Discussion Guide



We Rip the World Apart by Charlene Carr, Page 4 (March 2024)

6. What main ideas—themes—does the author explore? (Consider the title, often a clue to a theme.) Does the author use symbols to reinforce the main ideas? (See our free LitCourses on both Symbol and Theme.)
7. What passages strike you as insightful, even profound? Perhaps a bit of dialog that's funny or poignant or that encapsulates a character? Maybe there's a particular comment that states the book's thematic concerns?
8. Is the ending satisfying? If so, why? If not, why not...and how would you change it?
9. If you could ask the author a question, what would you ask? Have you read other books by the same author? If so how does this book compare. If not, does this book inspire you to read others?
10. Has this novel changed you—broadened your perspective? Have you learned something new or been exposed to different ideas about people or a certain part of the world?

Source: *Lit Lovers* (<http://www.litlovers.com>)