

Shadowlands Book Club Questions

For those book clubs who are reading “Shadowlands,” thank you for selecting my book. I hope everyone is enjoying it and found something within that speaks to them. Here are some questions which may assist in discussing the novel.

- Kittie was the first murder victim we meet in this story. Why does it take Cabel so long to see her as a person and a victim rather than just part of a debt he must pay?
- How does the contrast between the Shadowland Ballroom and the Charades Club speakeasy help Cabel see the world more clearly? What does he learn about himself from these two places?
- Cabel loved Elizabeth since they were both teenagers and he felt both relief and guilt when he ended their engagement. Does his experience with Elizabeth’s sister Becca lessen that guilt, make it stronger or ease it to some degree? Why or how?
- Cabel is caught in a murky shadow world of his own guilt and isn’t sure if he wants to drown in the darkness or step back into the world and thus into life. What descriptions of the contrast of light and dark were most meaningful to you and which helped you to better understand Cabel’s dilemma.
- Once Cabel took the initial step to help Walter, Marta used every means at her disposal to keep him moving in that direction. Why did Cabel give her that much control and how much of that was intentional?
- Cabel was always close to his grandfather, though not his grandmother. In what respect did those relationships change after Cabel receives the letter and box from his grandmother? How did this help Cabel deal with his own pain?
- How do Cabel’s encounters with his cousin and uncle help him see himself and his relationships more clearly? How does it help him to heal?
- Although Al Capone is a gangster, in this story he is also a victim/target of violence. Does this change your impression of Capone?

- Cabel's PTSD causes him to fear for his sanity but in the end, save him from being killed at the speakeasy. Will this change how he feels about the flashbacks?
- What do you think is next for Cabel Evans?