



BOOK CLUB / READING GROUP DISCUSSION POINTS

Original title in Welsh: Yn y Tŷ Hwn

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- Anna first discovers Nant yr Aur as a child. Why is she drawn to it? What does it represent to her at this early stage of her life?
- There are several points in the book when Anna expresses relief at being alone. How much of her love for Nant yr Aur is a desire for solitude, or perhaps an inability to deal with other people?
- When so much sadness is connected with Nant yr Aur, why does Anna stay/go back there?
- Memories come to us all unbidden. Do Anna's memories comfort her or smother her? Have they caused trauma, do you think?
- Anna's longest, and perhaps closest, relationship is with her neighbour Emyr. How would you describe their relationship? What does Emyr get out of his friendship with Anna?
- What difference would it have made to Anna's life if Emyr had told her about Siôn – if not when he was a child, at least when she asks Emyr to post the letter?
- Emyr's revelation is one of two traumatic events in the story. When these happen, Anna wonders if the house walls and its contents have moved. Is Anna's sense of security tied up in the physical existence of her house? If it is, is this unusual or do you recognise these feelings in relation to your own home?
- Why is Anna so dismissive of Dora, Emyr's wife, when Dora is so kind to her?
- Siôn strikingly unforthcoming about his past and present life, including that he has both a sister and a girlfriend. Why does Siôn keep quiet about these women, and about who his father is? Is Siôn scheming all along?
- After Siôn takes a shower in Anna's house, he is described as coming down the stairs and towelling his hair in exactly the same way as Ioan is the first time she met him. Did you notice this clue? Do you think Anna picks up the resemblance between them, consciously or otherwise?
- Anna avoids arguments whenever possible, perhaps as a leftover from her parents' behaviour when she was a child. Has Anna's preference for superficial harmony at all costs become a cowardly refusal to face reality?
- What is your interpretation of the ending? Where does Anna go at the end? Why does she apparently give up living in Nant yr Aur so easily? Has she died? If she hasn't, is she about to wake up to life, or will she perish away from Nant yr Aur?
- Did you like the use of flashbacks, rather than having the action presented to you chronologically?