

The Canopy by Angela Hunt

DISCUSSION GUIDE

provided courtesy of www.AngelaHuntBooks.com

1. This book can be read as an adventure story and an allegory: work in which the characters and events are to be understood as representing other things and symbolically expressing a deeper, often spiritual meaning. What elements in this book represent other things? What do you think Hunt is trying to say by this use of allegory?
2. With which character in the story did you most identify? Why?
3. What “disease” are all humans born with? Hint: it’s not a disease of the body (though our bodies certainly feel its effects), but rather a disease of the soul. What is the “treatment” for a sick soul?
4. Why do you think the natives’ brains were not transformed when they were healed in the tree? If they had diseased brains, how were they able to function in the physical world?
5. In order to come to complete faith, Alex goes through three stages of belief. Can you identify them?

The first stage involves mental agreement. At what point does she see proof of Michael’s story and mentally agree that he is onto something?

The second stage involves emotional agreement. At what point does Alexandra bend her emotions to the point where she is willing to believe?

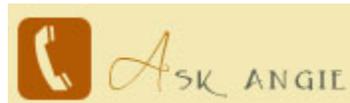
The final stage of faith involves a surrender, an act of placing trust in someone else. At what point does Alex experience this kind of surrendering belief?

6. At one point in the story, Michael wishes he were better equipped to handle the religious skepticism of his fellow travelers. What could he do to equip himself?

7. Why do so many physicians concentrate on the healing of the body while they ignore the soul?
8. Consider the strangler fig—the tree that grows down from another tree, gradually covering it until it dies. If this tree were a metaphor, how are we like the strangler fig? How are we like the host tree?
9. To the Romans, Paul wrote: “But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who push the truth away from themselves. For the truth about God is known to them instinctively. God has put this knowledge in their hearts. From the time the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky and all that God made. They can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse whatsoever for not knowing God” (1:18-20).

How does the above passage play into the plot of this book?

10. If you could ask the author any question, what would it be?



You've read her stories; now talk to Angie by telephone!

As a favor to reading groups and book clubs, Angie is offering free fifteen-minute phone chats with readers.

To arrange an "Ask Angie" event for your local book club or bookstore, just contact Angie via her contact page with your requested date and time.

Visit www.AngelaHuntBooks.com for more information!