

The Face by Angela Hunt

DISCUSSION GUIDE



1. As you will discover if you search the Internet for research on brain printing, Spanish poppy production, lie detection, CIA black sites, and propranolol (the trauma drug), most of the concepts featured in this novel are quite real. Did some of these concepts seem far-fetched as you read the story? Does knowing that these ideas come from actual situations change any aspect of your worldview? In what way?
2. When Sarah first learns that she has an aunt, she says:

I have family . . . an aunt, a woman who knows who I am. If this is true, then this woman knows more about me than I know about myself. She knows where I have come from, who my mother was. She knows my father.

Maybe she knows why I am here.

How does Sarah's yearning to know her aunt reflect the yearning most people feel to understand and explore their roots?

3. How does the author use the setting to emphasize the theme of the story? Could the story have been set in another other locale? How did the setting emphasize or detract from Sarah's plight?

4. When she's dreaming of the perfect face, Sarah thinks *I don't want to be breathtakingly gorgeous; I wouldn't know how to handle perfection.*

Would you want to have a perfect face? How would your life change if you had the world's definition of perfect beauty?

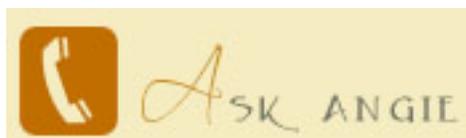
5. When Sarah confesses her feelings for Dr. Kollman and finds they are not reciprocated, she thinks: *He doesn't love me because he can't love me. He has seen me at my ugliest and most misshapen. Even if I look like Miss America by this time next year, he will never be able to forget what I truly am.*

How is love influenced by beauty? Does the person who truly loves keep a record of faults?

6. What do you think about the idea of memory implantation? The information about the "trauma drug" is true. If you could remove unpleasant emotion from some of

the past events in your life, would you? Should Sarah have opted to give herself new memories? Would you?

7. Think for a moment about the characters in this book: which women truly had “no faces”—no emotional involvement with the people around them? Who came to have emotional involvement? What were the forces that brought these characters into a closer relationship with others?
8. What were some of the themes in the book? Are these themes relevant to your life? A year from now, will this story still resonate with you? Why or why not?
9. Would you say this is a plot-driven novel (the plot moves the characters forward) or a character-driven novel (the characters drive the plot)? What were the turning points for each of the major characters, and what might have happened if they had chosen the opposite path?
10. With which character—Sarah, Renee, or Glenda—do you most identify, and why? How did their histories make them into the women they are? How will their lives influence each other?
11. If you were casting this novel for a movie, what actors would you choose for each of the main characters?
12. Have you read other novels by Angela Hunt? How does this novel echo themes in her other works? How does it differ?



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