

Remarkably Bright Creatures
by Shelby Van Pelt

Book Club Questions

- What was your initial impression of the book immediately after you were first introduced to Marcellus the octopus?
- What emotions did Marcellus inspire in you?
- After reading Marcellus's thoughts throughout the book, did your own views on animals in captivity change in any way?
- The book explores themes of self-discovery and personal growth. How do you see these themes manifesting in the lives of the main characters?
- The author tackles themes of resilience and overcoming adversity. Which characters journey resonated with you the most, and why?
- Tova and Marcellus shared a remarkable friendship. What qualities do you think that each saw in the other that are now binding them together?
- The settings of the book play a vital part in the story. How did the author's description of the setting contribute to the overall atmosphere or mood of the book?
- How do you think the story would be affected if it took place in a different place?
- Cameron was portrayed as somewhat of a sluggish character with a lack of maturity. How would you describe him?
- What were your feelings when Tova decided that she was going to sell her house, leave her community and friends, and move away to the retirement village where she knew no one?
- About halfway through the book, Marcellus made an observation that the "cleaning lady" walks like Cameron. Did you see what was coming at that point regarding the true relationship between Tova and Cameron?



- Tova thinks of herself as completely “over the hill” and is worried that she will become a burden to her friends if she continues to live alone. Did you see Tova as elderly and incapable? Or strong and vital?
- Did you find the ending and the relationship that was revealed between Tova and Cameron to be a plausible ending?
- Would this book make a good movie adaptation?
- What did you like most about the book?
- What did you like least about the book?
- Did any character in the book remind you of someone you know?
- Describe this book in 5 words or less.
- As you were reading the book, did you wonder whether octopuses really are remarkably bright creatures? And if so, did you research this to get the facts?
- What was the overall strongest emotion that this book inspired in you?
- If the book continued after the current ending, what do you think would be happening with Tova and Cameron one year later?
- If you could ask the author, Shelby Van Pelt, one question about Remarkably Bright Creatures, what would it be?

