

***The Secret Life of Anna Blanc* by Jennifer Kincheloe**

Book Club Discussion Questions

Anna is the consummate "poor little rich girl." How has Anna's upbringing contributed to her character? Her perspective on men?

At times, Anna loathes herself, and at others she congratulates herself. Do you think Anna is sympathetic or unsympathetic? Altruistic or self-serving? What are her best qualities and her worst qualities?

What does Anna's lying say about her? What do her prayers say about her?

How does Joe Singer impact Anna's development as a person?

Anna makes a series of choices that change the course of her life. If you had been in Anna's shoes, what choices would you have made?

In 1910, Police Matron Alice Stebbins Wells became the first female officer with the LAPD. Does Anna's performance support or undermine the case for hiring women cops? Which of Anna's characteristics make her well-suited for a role in law enforcement? Which characteristics hinder her effectiveness? Do you think Anna's flaws as a matron are irreparable?

How do Anna's challenges as a 1900s woman compare to what women endure today? How do Anna's challenges as a woman in law enforcement compare to what female cops may experience today? How important is it that the novel was set in Los Angeles? To what extent is Los Angeles a character in the novel?

Over the course of the novel, Anna dramatically changes circumstances with regard to her father, her work at the station, her social standing, and her love life. What do you think is next for Anna?