



Book Club Questions

To make it easier for your book club to discuss *House on Fire*, we recommend using these questions.

1. What was your reaction to this memoir? How did it make you feel when you were reading it? What were the lasting impressions about the book or things you found yourself thinking about even days later?
2. What were some of the central themes you picked up on while reading this work?
3. What passage or quote stood out to you the most?
4. What did you think of the narrative style? Did you feel you were given the whole, true story? Or is there room for interpretation?
5. This book deals with many difficult topics: mental health, sexual assault, abuse, alcoholism. Did this book change your perspective about any of these topics or alter your viewpoint?
6. Often when people think of family, they think of blood relations. Jenn demonstrates the importance of building yourself a family unit made up of those who have the most positive influence on your life. Contrast some of the people in Jenn's adoptive family or blood relatives with those people in her chosen family. What are some of the characteristics of the positive relationships in this book?

7. There are multiple examples of a “house on fire” in this book. Discuss the significance of the title of this book and how it relates to the circumstances of Jenn’s life. Why do you think the author chose to use this title?
8. Jenn used her love of the outdoors, athletic training, and running as coping mechanisms for many of the negative things happening in her life. What are some examples from your own life of how you cope with difficult situations and what are some healthy approaches to addressing negativity in your life?
9. Motherhood is a recurring theme in this book. Compare and contrast the mother figures in this book and how they may have influenced the choices Jenn made in her own life.
10. In deciding to relinquish her daughter, Jenn had to make a very difficult decision to ensure her own survival and the safety of her son. Can you think of a situation in your own life where you had to make a difficult or painful decision in the best interest of those you care about?