

Reading Group Questions

SUMMARY

WARNING: These questions and discussion points contain spoilers. Please do not read on if you haven't already read *Kill Me Again*



Kill Me Again is a story about a seemingly ordinary couple, happily married, with two small children. Maggie believes that her husband is a caring and loving father, and he is the man she plans to spend the rest of her life with.

She has always been aware that her husband, Duncan, likes to keep things to himself and he has never spoken much about his childhood – in fact, he's hardly told her anything at all. But she has been okay with that, knowing that over time together he would open up.

When she finds out the truth, though, she has a host of conflicting emotions. His actions as a nineteen year old may seem horrific, but Maggie has to ask

herself whether there is any way that she can live with what he did.

It is a story of dilemmas – and Maggie has to face so many: whether to go to the police as soon as she hears about the photo on Duncan's phone; whether to let her son escape or keep him close; and who to kill, when she is faced with the choice of who must die.

It is only in the final chapter that Maggie has to make the ultimate choice – to let her husband escape or not.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Which of the characters did you feel most drawn to and why?
2. How did you feel about the characters – in particular Maggie and Duncan?
3. When Maggie came home and found Duncan had gone, her first reaction was to think he had maybe found somebody else. What other reactions do you think she might have had?
4. The police are unlikely to look into a missing person who has left of their own volition, unless they are vulnerable. Do you think that she made the right choice to trust her husband, rather than tell the police about the photo on his phone?

5. There are two occasions when Maggie has the choice of letting Josh get to safety or staying with her. Both situations could possibly have put him in a dangerous position. Do you think she had any other choice on either of these occasions?
6. Duncan's main explanation of his behaviour is that he was young and he didn't realise that anybody was going to be killed. How do you feel about his reasoning?
7. When Maggie is captured she is given the choice of telling Duncan to kill her, or to kill Leo. The third choice would be to tell them to kill Duncan. Given her state of mind at that time, what choice do you think would have been most appropriate, had the police not intervened?
8. There are two time periods in the book – now, and 12 years ago. How did you feel the flow between the two time periods worked, and what do you think the structure brought to you enjoyment of the novel?
9. The book takes place in Manchester, in some abandoned sites. How did you feel about the author's choice of location and how much do you think it added to the story?
10. Tom Douglas was clearly distressed by what happened to Leo – what do think the future holds for them if anything?
11. Frank was an unusual character. Did he appear sinister to you from the start and what, if any, role did you think he had played in everything? At what point did you realise that he was involved?
12. As a counsellor, Frank had clearly encouraged students to use the Internet to support their insecurities. To what extent do you believe this is a viable option for young people?
13. Frank told Duncan (or Michael, as he was then) that visiting a fantasy murder site would be good for him. Do you believe sites like this exist, and if so, what do you think are the dangers of such websites?
14. Frank tells Maggie 'You should make your decision about Duncan based not on whether he's lied to you, but on whether the version of him that you know *now* is one that you can still live with. Still love.' How do you think this might have influenced the decisions that Maggie subsequently took?
15. When Suzy tells Maggie that she's made the right decision about going to the police, Maggie says 'It all sounds so bloody obvious to somebody who isn't involved ... This is my husband we're talking about. I love him. I trust him.' Was she right to believe in him and persuade herself that there must be some explanation?
16. Did you feel that Maggie had made the right choice in killing Duncan, and what other options might she have had?
17. What did the title of the novel come to mean to you by the end? What feelings did the book leave you with?
18. If you had the opportunity to ask the author a question about the book, what would it be?