

A Reluctant Spy – Questions for book clubs

Thank you for reading *A Reluctant Spy*, which is my debut novel. These questions are based on the themes and ideas I had while writing the book, but if you have any topics of your own that you particularly enjoy discussing, please do [get in touch](#) via my website and let me know so I can include them in future versions.

I'm also very happy to join book clubs virtually (or in person if you're within driving distance of Edinburgh). Use the link above to visit my contact form and enter the subject 'Book club visit'. Thank you again for reading and I hope you have an enjoyable discussion!

Dave

Plot, structure and character

- There are multiple nested timelines and character points of view which draw together towards the end of the book. Did this structure affect the way you understood what was happening?
- What did you think had happened to Terence (and GARNET) early in the book? Did you guess the truth?
- If you found yourself in Jamie's position in the airport, would you make the same decisions he did? Why or why not?
- Who was your favourite character in the book and why?

Themes and ideas

- The Legends Programme features a real 'deal with the devil' – what would you have to be offered to lend your identity to a secret agent?
- Have you ever been in social or work situation where you've felt really out of place or an imposter? Why did you feel that way? Did you 'fake it til you make it' or do something else?
- Why do 'fish out of water' stories appeal to us?

Espionage and spies

- The CIA called the Legends Programme 'an elegant solution to a real-world problem' (no, really, [they did](#)). Do you agree with their tongue-in-cheek review?
- Imagine a scale with James Bond at one end and John Le Carré at the other – where do you think this book sits? Why?
- If you were dropped into the compound of a power-hungry mercenary oligarch like Arkady Bocharov and you could only take one item in with you, what would it be and why?