

BOOK CLUB GUIDE

In "Cycle of Life" the protagonist while growing up is a social rebel. Have you ever sensed the meaninglessness of life? How did you deal with that feeling?

What is the secret of Valakya's equipoise and wisdom? How does it help him face the fear of death?

Have you come across a relationship in your life as abusing as that of Saras and his boss? At some point, did the abused meet someone like the "Secret Healer?"

How can Mrs. Weiss be so graceful and yet so prejudiced?

What would you do if you find yourself facing a similar family situation as that of Gauri in "Gauri's Freedom?"

Whom does the protagonist of "The Blackened Mirror" see in the mirror?

Do you think the protagonist of this story was right in accusing "The Thug?"

Do you feel free to talk about death with someone close to you the way protagonist of "A Precious Gift" talks with her mother?

Did you ever have "A Chance Meeting?" Did it enhance or endanger your life?

Do you know someone who died young or unexpectedly as in "Yellow Jacket" and "A Precious Gift?" How did it affect you? Did it make you feel guilty or fearful of your own death?

What is the downfall of illiteracy in a culture or an individual? Were you deeply desirous of something early in your life as Lyn, the protagonist of "Darkness Behind Eyes," was but the circumstances kept you from achieving it?

In what ways does your experience of meeting someone by chance parallel with some stories in the collection?

Which characters from these stories do you most admire? Which do you find least admirable? And why?

Have some of the stories helped you deepen your views about art and spirituality? What part does art or religion play in your life?

Why does the author of *The Chance Meetings* tell several stories from first person point of view?