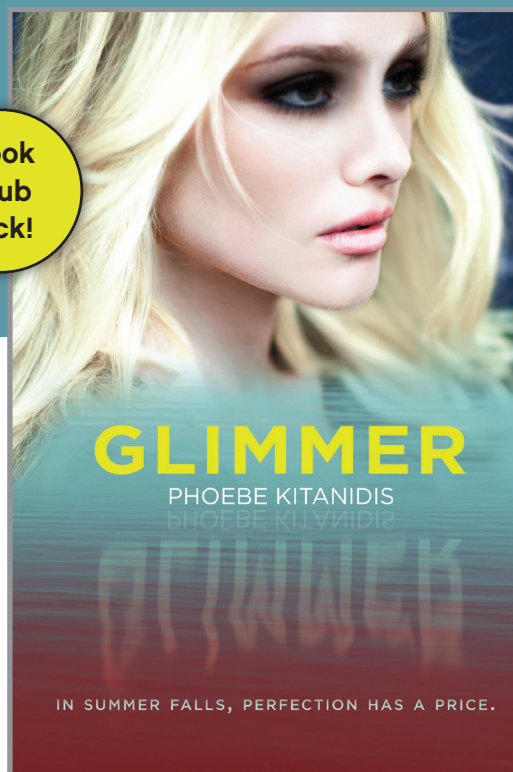


GLIMMER

by PHOEBE KITANIDIS

Book
Club
Pick!

About the Book

When Marshall King and Elyse Alton wake up tangled in each other's arms with zero memory of how they got there or even who they are, they make a pact to find the answers that could restore their missing memories. As they piece together clues about their lives, they discover that they're in the idyllic resort town of Summer Falls. But darkness lurks beneath the surface: Not only is the town haunted by sinister ghosts, but none of its living inhabitants retain bad memories of anything. Lonely in this world of happy zombies, Marshall and Elyse fall into an intense relationship, but the secrets they're trying to uncover could be the death of their growing love—and Summer Falls itself.

Discussion Questions

1. What makes Elyse trust Marshall after they first wake up? Are there specific traits that make someone trustworthy?
2. Elyse calls herself sneaky and two-faced when she realizes she's been hiding things from Dan. When nothing is certain, why does she automatically assume the worst about herself?
3. Summer Falls is created to always have a sunny, tropical climate. How does this artificially agreeable environment reflect what is happening in the town?
4. Joe tells Marshall, "Human history's full of holes. As a species we've forgotten almost everything about ourselves" (p. 168). Do you think this sentiment is true? How relevant is it to today's world?
5. When Joe describes the residents of Summer Falls, he says, "They live in the moment" (p. 169). When do you think it is important to live in the moment?
6. Why do you think Marshall's parents believe it's "too late for these poor people" in Summer Falls (p. 229)? Would you try to save them? What would be the biggest difficulty in trying to rehabilitate them?
7. Despite everything that's wrong with Summer Falls, Elyse eventually becomes defensive of her hometown. What is it that connects her to this place? How is her attachment to it different from Marshall's link to Summer Falls?
8. How does Elyse know that her mother, Liz, loves her? Do you think that somewhere in Liz's consciousness, she knows that something is off in their lives? Why does Liz let Elyse leave for California but won't join her?
9. Elyse remembers almost nothing about her life, yet she instinctively fears Jeffry. What does this suggest about the nature of memory? Do some kinds of memory live in your body, not your consciousness?
10. Do you think people in today's society tend to block out bad memories on their own? How does this story reflect the pros and cons of forgetting only negative experiences?
11. With their bad memories wiped, the residents of Summer Falls all begin to resemble one another with their zombie-like optimism and cheerfulness. What does this suggest about individual personalities and what shapes them?
12. Mr. Preston insists that "happiness is built into [the] system" in Summer Falls and "everyone's content" (p. 310). Is there a difference between being happy and being content?
13. When Marshall asks Elyse if she still thinks they "made the right choice," is he really questioning their actions (p. 346)? Why does he ask her?
14. How do the alternating perspectives in the novel affect the storytelling? What would change if the story was told from only one point of view? Could the story be told from an omniscient perspective?