

# A WANT SO WICKED

by SUZANNE YOUNG

Book  
Club  
Pick!



## About the Book

When seventeen-year-old Elise Landon wakes up one morning with no idea who she is, her life takes a bizarre turn. She experiences unexpected flashes of insight into the lives of people she's never met before. Strangers frighten her with warnings about the approaching Shadows. And although Elise has never had a boyfriend, she finds herself torn between two handsome and very different guys: Abe, the charming bad boy whose effect on her both seduces and frightens her, and the mysterious Harlin, who's new in town but with whom Elise feels an urgent, elemental connection. Now Elise begins to question everything. Why do these guys both want her so desperately? What are the Shadows? Why does the name Charlotte inspire a terrifying familiarity? And who is Elise, really?

## Discussion Questions

1. When Elise first appears, she thinks that the heat of the sun “feels like home. Like love” (p. 2). Why does the sun have this effect on her? What feels like home and love to you? Are home and love one and the same, or are they different?
2. What is *déjà vu*? Why does Elise experience it? Have you ever had the sensation of *déjà vu*? Describe your experience.
3. When Abe first calls Elise “*querida*,” a customer tells Elise that the term of endearment means beloved or wanted (p. 17). How does being wanted signify being loved? How are the definitions of these two things not necessarily equivalent?
4. Do you believe in past lives and reincarnation? Why or why not?
5. What do you think Elise’s mother meant when she said that life was too short to mourn the dead (p. 113)? Do you agree or disagree?
6. How do Harlin’s memories of Charlotte preclude him from starting something new with Elise? How have your past romantic relationships—whether finished or unfinished—affected your current ones?
7. Who is Abe, really? Who is Harlin? Why does Elise trust Harlin more than she does Abe, despite barely knowing him?
8. What power do dreams convey? How can they reveal things that you’re not aware of while awake? Even though Elise’s dreams are not her own, how do they reveal her subconscious?
9. Describe the Landon family. Why are Elise, Lucy, and their dad especially close? How are Elise and Lucy protective of each other? Why do all three members of the family take such care of the others?
10. Marceline says that there’s no such thing as coincidence (p. 180). Do you believe in coincidence or do you think everything is fated to happen?
11. Why is a Shadow’s existence a lonely one? What might the Shadows represent metaphorically?
12. What does Marceline mean when she says, “It’s good to know when to be afraid” (p. 189)? How can fear be a useful emotion?
13. What’s Lucy’s secret? Why doesn’t Elise realize what’s going on with her sister? Why can’t Lucy give herself over to the light?
14. How are Need and Want at odds with each other in the novel? Does the lowercase version of each have the same meaning as the uppercase one? Explain.