

BOOK CLUB KIT

PRETTY

THINGS

JANELLE BROWN



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which *Pretty Things* character do you most identify with and why?
2. What motivates Nina to act the way she does? Do you think her actions are justified? How do you think her life would be different if she grew up more like Vanessa? What does her story say about class and privilege?
3. Did the book make you think differently about social media? Discuss the positive and negative aspects of sharing one's life online.
4. How do the ways we present ourselves on social media differ from our true selves, and how might that discrepancy be harmful?
5. Describe the kind of deception that Lachlan is capable of.
6. Many people feel there's nothing they wouldn't do for their mothers. Have you ever felt this? How did this novel make you reflect on that idea?
7. There are several "points of no return" in the book. Which did you find to be the most critical?
8. How does the novel's setting impact the plot?
9. What does the title mean to you? Do you believe we all want "pretty things"?
10. Discuss Nina and Vanessa's relationship. How do their perceptions of each other change over time?
11. How did you feel about the novel's alternating voices and perspectives? How would the story be different without them?

PLAYLIST

Listen to this *Pretty Things* playlist curated by author Janelle Brown on Spotify.

1. "Bottom of the River" by Delta Rae
2. "Criminal" by Fiona Apple
3. "I Need A Dollar" by Aloe Blacc
4. "Gold Past Life" by Fruit Bats
5. "Somebody That I Used to Know"
by Gotye, feat. Kimbra
6. "Little Lies" by Fleetwood Mac
7. "Lyn' Eyes" by Eagles
8. "Hold Up" by Beyoncé
9. "A Million Ways" by OK Go
10. "Cry Me a River" by Justin Timberlake
11. "Would I Lie to You" by Eurythmics
12. "You Know I'm No Good" by Amy Winehouse
13. "Doin' Time" by Lana Del Rey
14. "100 Days, 100 Nights" by Sharon Jones
& The Dap-Kings
15. "Killing Me Softly with His Song" by Roberta Flack
16. "One More Night" by Michael Kiwanuka
17. "Sorry Not Sorry" by Demi Lovato
18. "I'm Goin' Down" by Mary J. Blige
19. "Back to Black" by Amy Winehouse

DRINKS



THE CRIMINAL (Rosemary Gimlet)

Ingredients

Rosemary Simple Syrup

- ½ cup sugar
- 4 teaspoons fresh rosemary leaves

Cocktail

- 2 ounces gin, such as Hendrick's
- ¾ ounce fresh lemon juice
- Small rosemary sprig, for serving

Directions

Step 1: Rosemary Simple Syrup

In a small saucepan, bring ½ cup water, sugar, and rosemary to a boil, stirring until sugar dissolves. Let stand for 30 minutes, then strain; discard solids. Refrigerate in an airtight container for up to 1 week. (Makes ½ cup.)

Step 2: Cocktail

Combine gin, lemon juice, and ¾ ounce syrup in a cocktail shaker. Fill halfway with ice. Shake until outside of shaker is frosty, about 30 seconds. Strain and serve, garnished with rosemary.



THE INFLUENCER (Cranberry-Orange Sparkler)

Ingredients

- 1 cup cranberry juice cocktail
- ⅓ cup orange-flavored liqueur, such as Cointreau or Grand Marnier
- 1 bottle (750 ml) champagne or other dry white sparkling wine, chilled
- 24 ounces ginger ale, chilled

Directions

In a measuring cup, combine juice and liqueur. Divide among 8 champagne flutes or wine glasses. To serve, top with equal parts champagne and ginger ale.