



Reading Guide

***Sacrificed* by Chanette Paul**

1. Describe Caz and Lilah's mother-daughter relationship. How and why do you think Caz was able to transcend the poor model of mothering from her own experiences? How much do you think our own experiences of parenting affect the way we raise our children?
2. Consider the circumstances of Lilah's childhood. What difficulties did she face, as a black child of a white mother in apartheid South Africa? What difficulties did Caz face?
3. Who suffered more in these circumstances—Caz or Lilah? Why?
4. Discuss how Caz must have felt when she saw her baby presented as a different race from her. How would you have reacted if it happened to you? How would you have reacted if it happened to your daughter / daughter-in-law / someone close to you?
5. If you were Caz, would you have forgiven Ammie? Why or why not?
6. Considering the entire novel, and the complicated models of motherhood we see in multiple women, what does the story say about motherhood?
7. How does Caz's full name, Cassandra, play a role throughout the story?
8. Luc is attracted to Caz but she also angers him. Is his ambivalence warranted? Why or why not? What did you think of him as a character?
9. Is De Brabander, the detective, fair and just in his pursuit of the truth? Why or why not?
10. Which character did you identify with the most? Why?
11. Which character did you like the least? Why?
12. What do you know about the diamond industry and the trafficking in diamonds? What role do diamonds play in this book?
13. What would you have done in Caz's place when she finds out what is hidden in the nkisi and its intended purpose?
14. What differences does the book suggest between Africa and Europe? Do you agree or disagree that these differences exist? Why?



15. What are the concepts of Dewhiteization and Re-Afrikanization, according to the book? Why did these movements arise in Africa? What are valid reasons why these movements began? What are possible or probable problems with these movements?
16. What were some of the repercussions of colonization, according to the book?
17. What roles do race, racism, and racial issues play in the book? Which characters are racist and why/how?
18. The ways that people sacrifice other people for their own selfish (or sometimes even noble purposes) is one of the main themes of the books. Which characters suffer from being sacrificed? How does it affect them? Which characters suffer from sacrificing others? Why and how?