



Discussion Questions for Anna Pitoniak's THE FUTURES

1. Did you relate more with Evan or with Julia? Did your own experiences during and immediately following college align more closely with those of one character?
2. What did you make of the alternating narrations? Did seeing the same event unfold from both Julia and Evan's eyes deepen your understanding of each character as an individual? Are there any specific events that were recounted by both narrators in which you sided more with one over the other? Or where your opinion changed after hearing the event recounted from both sides?

3. Upon embarking on their “adult” lives, Julia and Evan both experience myriad emotions: love, longing, frustration, fear and desire, to name a few. Yet the constant emotion for both seems to be uncertainty—both about themselves and about one another. Do you remember a period in your life when you experienced a lot of uncertainty? Do you feel more certain about yourself and your decisions now?
4. Over the course of the novel, both Julia and Evan make their fair share of mistakes. When you were their age, did you make any big mistakes? Do you regret those mistakes, or have they helped shape the person you are today?
5. How did your relationships change after college graduation, and during the years of your early-to-mid-twenties? Are there any relationships you clung to out of fear? If so, what was driving this fear?
6. The 2008 financial crisis is a defining event in Julia and Evan’s coming-into-adulthood. Was there any such event in your life?
7. What did you make of the novel’s end? Where do you see Julia and Evan in ten years?