

# INSIDE THE BONE BOX

BY ANTHONY FERNER

## QUESTIONS

- The book includes narrative from two different points of view, that of Nicholas Anderton and of his wife, Alyson. How has this allowed the author to build depth to his two main characters?
- The chapters told from Alyson's point of view are entitled 'Alyson', whilst others have unique chapter headings. What impact do you think this has on the reader? Why do you think the author chose to do this?
- The book starts, quite literally, with a bang. How effective do you think this is in getting the reader engaged in the story?
- Discuss the narrative arc of the book. Is there ever a sense of inevitability or uncertainty as to what will happen? Are there any points where the author deliberately tilts this balance?
- Examine how the author directs the physical movements of the two main characters. When and where do they meet in the storyline, and what impact does this have on the author's painting of their toxic relationship?
- In what way does the author use descriptions of food and of surgery? What impact does this have on the reader and on the narrative tension of the book?
- Other than Bhattacharya, many of the characters in the book are 'off stage'. Why do you think the author chose to do this and what impact do you think it has on the telling of the story?
- Discuss the ending. How would you have ended the book?

## WRITING EXERCISES

A) Write two chapters of 500 words - each told from the point of view of a different character, but which, together, define the relationship between the two.

OR

B) Write a passage of 1,000 words which uses a description of food or eating to convey some other emotion.

## NOTES

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