

BOOK CLUB KIT

BAD *a Novel* **CREE** JESSICA JOHNS



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the book's title, *Bad Cree*, work in relation to its contents? If you could give the book a new title, what would it be?
2. Grief and loss are significant themes in *Bad Cree*. In what ways do the characters experience grief and how does that show up in the novel? Do you think this is an accurate portrayal of the different ways of dealing with loss?
3. Crows appear consistently throughout *Bad Cree*, so much so they are essentially their own characters. How do the appearance of the crows inform the mood of the novel? Does the mood they create when they appear change as the novel progresses?
4. *Bad Cree* is told through the first-person perspective of Mackenzie. Because of this, we see how conflicted and guilt-ridden she feels about her return home after so many years. How would Mackenzie's return be viewed through the point of view of Kassidy, Tracey, and Loretta?
5. Dreams play a central and important role in *Bad Cree*. How do each family member's dreams differ? How do they connect? Why do they feel they couldn't confide in each other about them sooner?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

6. The oilfield industry has changed the landscape of Mackenzie's homelands. In what ways do we see these changes manifest?
7. Discuss the ways in which Mackenzie's life changes based on where she is located: Vancouver, BC, and High Prairie, Alberta.
8. When she feels like she's messing up, Mackenzie asks her auntie "Am I a Bad Cree?" What do you think Mackenzie means by that? At what other points does the dichotomy between "good" and "bad" or "right" and "wrong" come up?
9. The author intentionally highlights the strength, love, and power of Indigenous women and femmes, particularly when they are protecting each other. How have the women or gender non-conforming people in your life shown up for you in the past?
10. If you were to go to The Stardust bar with the aunties, Kassidy, Tracey, and Mackenzie, what would be your go-to karaoke song?



A SPOOKY RECOMMENDED READING LIST:

Severance
by Ling Ma

Her Body and Other Parties
by Carmen Maria Machado

The Low, Low Woods
by Carmen Maria Machado

The Death of Vivek Oji
by Akwaeke Emezi

An Unkindness of Ghosts
by Rivers Solomon

The Marrow Thieves
by Cherie Dimaline

Hunting by Stars
by Cherie Dimaline

White is for Witching
by Helen Oyeyemi

Practical Magic
by Alice Hoffman

The Rules of Magic
by Alice Hoffman

Monkey Beach by Eden Robinson



A moody and broody
playlist to listen to
while reading *Bad Cree*,
featuring Mackenzie's
favorite emo & pop punk
songs from the early 2000s!



The Spotify playlist can be found [here](#). Or scan the code above!