

Discussion Questions

Cleopatra and Frankenstein by Coco Mellors

1. The main characters of the book are Cleo and Frank, and Cleopatra and Frankenstein are not their real names. So why is the book called *Cleopatra and Frankenstein*?
2. Each chapter of *Cleopatra and Frankenstein* is told from a different character's point of view. Name some of these characters. How does the changing perspective affect how we read the book?
3. The novel is filled with descriptions of lavish parties and hedonistic behavior. How do these descriptions change as the novel progresses?
4. Cleo is presented in the novel as admired but lonely. What contributes to her loneliness?
5. Is Frank a supportive partner to Cleo? Why or why not?
6. Who is Zoe to Cleo and Frank? Describe their relationships. What drives Zoe to make her decisions throughout the novel?
7. The chapters from Eleanor's point of view are the only ones written in both the first person and fragments. How does this affect how we see her character?
8. As the novel progresses, it becomes increasingly clear that Cleo is depressed. How does she cope with her mental illness? How does Frank? Are these coping mechanisms effective?
9. Cleo and Frank keep some big secrets from each other. How do these secrets affect their relationship?
10. Are Cleo and Frank well suited to each other? Why or why not?
11. Near the end of the novel, Frank gets sober. How is alcoholism presented in the novel? What finally pushes Frank toward sobriety?
12. In the final chapter, Frank visits Cleo in Italy. Describe what happens. How does this ending make us feel? Is it a good ending?

Source: Bloomsbury Publishing Readers Guide