

## Discussion Questions

### *Last Call at the Nightingale* by Katharine Schellman

1. "The long, drawn-out wail of a trumpet could hide almost anything." How does this line, the first in *Last Call at the Nightingale*, set the tone for the story?
2. Discuss what the Nightingale means to the characters in this book, in particular Vivian. Can you think of similar places in our own times? What about in your own life?
3. How are the themes of acceptance and trust threaded throughout the novel? In what ways do the characters—both good and bad—use Vivian’s search for belonging against her?
4. The Roaring Twenties is a time period often covered in historical novels of all genres. How did Vivian’s perspective, as a lower class, bisexual woman, change your understanding of the 1920s?
5. Vivian and Florence are sisters tightly bound together both emotionally and through circumstances, yet their approaches to life differ immensely. Why do you think this is? Do you think either of them have changed their attitudes by the end of the novel?
6. Hattie Wilson and Honor Huxley are both powerful women in a place and time ruled by men. How do their approaches to leadership differ? Then again, how might these two women see things similarly?
7. *Last Call at the Nightingale* is peppered with characters from all walks of life, from Bea, to Danny, to Mags. What did these differing perspectives add to the story? Which character did you identify with the most, and why?
8. In a climactic scene ending chapter 28, Florence makes the life-altering decision to kill a man. In a similar situation, could you have made the same choice? Did you ever—even briefly—blame her for pulling the trigger?
9. Honor and Leo represent very different paths for Vivian, not least because Honor is another woman. Who do you think Vivian prefers? What obstacles might impede either relationship?
10. Though the killer is ultimately revealed, Vivian agrees to keep their identity quiet. Were you surprised by the murderer’s identity? After Vivian decided to keep the secret, did you feel justice had been subverted—or served?