

Discussion Questions

1. This novel is told from the viewpoint of a serial stalker who writes about his past activities and eventually gives his notes to his current subject, Frances. He titles the book *Read Me*. How does this correlate with current discussions of consent, privacy, and aggression towards women, specifically? Given Facebook's recent data breach and the rise of cyberstalking and doxxing, do you think the book offers any insight into why people are stalked in the real world?
2. In the beginning of the novel, the narrator inherits a large sum of money after an aunt passes away. How does this change the course of the novel? How would events play out if the narrator wasn't wealthy?
3. We never learn the narrator's name. What is the significance of this? How does it impact his characterization and how does it affect our understanding of his identity?
4. In what ways does the narrator justify his criminal behavior and thought processes? Is he a reliable narrator? What is he trying to convince us of? Does he have any personality traits that could explain his behavior?
5. Will and Patrick are both attacked because of their presence in Frances's life. What do you think the narrator's motivations are behind these acts of violence? How did you react to Will's death? Did you see it coming, or were you surprised by what the narrator was capable of? How did it compare to the impact of Patrick's death? Were the attacks similar in any way?
6. The narrator describes it as his moral duty "to get away with what [he's] doing..." because so long as he remains undiscovered, no one gets hurt. How and where do you see this logic being used today? What are your thoughts on how the narrator wields it, especially given the fact that he goes on to hurt people later in the book?
7. When the narrator murders Patrick, the point-of-view switches to the second person, e.g. "you feed another length of rope..." and "you'll produce your phone and press play." How did you feel when the narrator switched to this type of address? Did it change how the scene played out?
8. When Frances visits Patrick's family home, we learn more personal details about him than many of the other characters in the novel. Frances has even more interaction with Patrick's family than her own. Why do you think this is?
9. Did it surprise you to learn that the narrator was the one who sent the incriminating email that cost Frances her job? Would it change your perception of the narrator if it turned out that Will or someone else was the culprit?
10. Throughout the novel, the narrator offers practical advice about the logistics of stalking, implying that "you" will learn from his mistakes. How did you take these instructions?

Do you think they are only intended for Frances, who is told to read the book, or for all of us?

11. Did you expect the narrator to reveal himself the way he did in the end? What do you think will happen after Frances finishes reading his book?