

Discussion Questions

The Women on Platform Two by Laura Anthony

1. In the opening chapter, engaged couple Saoirse and Miles argue about their future. Miles wants children, while Saoirse is reluctant. Should couples discuss family planning early in a relationship, or wait until things are more serious?
2. In Chapter 3, Maura overhears colleagues referring to her friend Ger with a word beginning with an 'L.' Considering homosexuality was illegal in Ireland at the time, how might this affect Maura, and how does her perspective evolve?
3. When Maura returns late after her first date with Christy, her father's anger fades when she says, 'He's a doctor, Da.' Do you think Mr. Flynn is socially biased? Do you see similar attitudes today?
4. Maura tells Saoirse, 'The women of Ireland fought hard for choice. But no one ever said choosing would be easy.' How have women's reproductive choices changed over time where you live?
5. When Maura marries Christy, she is forced to give up the job she loves. How did this make you feel as a reader?
6. When Maura and Bernie first meet, which woman do you think is happier, and why?
7. Maura and Bernie remain friends for life. What has allowed your longest friendship to endure?
8. Do you think Dan McCarthy is a unique male character? Did most men benefit from their dominant position, or did some want equality?
9. Mrs. Stitch runs a secret and dangerous operation. How does your opinion of her change over the course of the novel?
10. What was your reaction when Maura realizes her parents may have known about Christy's violence? Were you surprised?
11. When Bernie learns another pregnancy could kill her, she and Dan must abstain from sex. How might this loss of intimacy affect a loving marriage?
12. How does the modern-day timeline influence your understanding of the historical narrative?
13. Maura says, 'A story is best told over tea and biscuits.' If you could share tea with one character, who would it be and why?