

The Woman in the Camphor Trunk by Jennifer Kincheloe

Book Club Discussion Questions

As the novel begins, we find Anna struggling to make ends meet in a run-down apartment and working long days for the Los Angeles Police Department. It's a far cry from her previous life of leisure and luxury. How does this change in status change Anna, if at all?

The love triangle between the missionary Elizabeth Bonsor, Chan Mon, and Leo Lim is based on a true story. Did you find it believable that a white missionary would be involved with two Chinese men in 1908?

Both Chinatown and white Los Angeles were incredibly sexist in 1908. How did sexism appear to shape the behavior of women in the novel?

Were you surprised by the racism in the novel? How are the stereotypes of Chinese Americans today different from those in the 1900s? Are Asian Americans still facing racial bias today?

Both in the tong president's restaurant and the subsequent honey scene, Anna shoots first. Was Anna justified or unjustified in pulling the trigger?

How important was it that the novel was set in Chinatown? In other words, could it just as easily have been an Irish gang in New York or the nascent Italian mafia in LA? To what extent was Chinatown a character in the book?

Anna and Joe have a passionate, but tortured relationship. What do you think is next for them?

The Woman in the Camphor Trunk ♦ ISBN 978-1633883635 ♦ \$15.95 ♦ Trade Paperback ♦ \$9.99 ebook
www.seventhstreetbooks.com