



'A virtuosic debut: subversive, passionate, and darkly alchemical. Read it and be changed.'

Eleanor Catton, author of *The Luminaries*

A Girl is a Half-formed Thing

Eimear McBride

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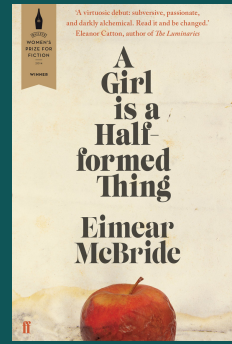
BOOK CLUB
QUESTIONS

www.brunchbookclub.com

Discussion Questions

A Girl is a Half-formed Thing

by Eimear McBride



1. *A Girl is a Half-formed Thing* is a book readers either love or hate, which camp did you fall into and why?
2. The protagonist is never given a name and there are no historical signposts that indicate when the book was set. Why do you think McBride chose to do this and how did it impact your reading?
3. Is the protagonist a sympathetic character? How did you respond to her choices and actions in the book?
4. The nature of the narrative style means that the reader is given a lot of insight into the protagonist's view of herself. How reliable is she as a narrator? How has her trauma affected her?
5. The book explores many harmful beliefs entrenched in society by the Catholic Church throughout Ireland. How does the novel challenge these views? Did it change your own views of Ireland, the Catholic Church or gender norms?
6. As a book club we have read many books that tackle triggering issues like rape, abuse, mental illness, violence etc, however, none have been written and structured in this way. What made your reading more difficult: the subject matter or the format?
7. What are the main hypocrisies explored in the novel?
8. The book is described in great detail, including scenes of horrific rape and violence. How prepared were you for this? Do you think the author/publisher has a responsibility to warn the reader ahead of reading or would this negatively impact the telling of the story?
9. What emotions did you feel when reading *A Girl is a Half-formed Thing*?
10. In what way would the peripheral characters view events differently if the roles of the brother and sister had been reversed?
11. How appropriate is the title? Does it accurately describe the experience of girlhood?
12. Why do you think *A Girl is a Half-formed Thing* won the Women's Prize for Fiction in 2014?

