

## The Scarred Pianist

1. "The Scarred Pianist" deals with themes such as friendship, and the roles we are assigned and then have difficulty getting out of. Do you recognize yourself in Marieke's and Veronica's relation?
2. How would you describe the personalities of Marieke and Veronica? What do you think formed them?
3. Do you like Marieke? Veronica?
4. Have you ever met someone like Marieke and if so, what similarities do you see between this person and Marieke?
5. And Veronica, have you ever met someone like her and what are the characteristics of that person?
6. How do you think these two people change during the story?
7. Marieke's and Veronica's friendship changes during the book as well. Do you think this would have happened even if they had not gone for this trip together?
8. How does it happen that you get to play a certain role in a friendship? Can you change these roles and still keep up the friendship? How do you avoid getting stuck in the same role with new acquaintances?
9. Sometime people say there is a difference between male and female friendship. Is there a difference and if so, in what ways?
10. The Scarred Pianist is also a triangle drama. Why do you think both women fall for James? Which one of them do you think is most suitable for a relationship with him?
11. Which role does music play in this book? In which way do you recognize that the author has been influenced by music?
12. James, the scarred pianist, has been prevented from practising his profession because of an injury. How do you manage to come back when everything you lived for has been broken into pieces?
13. Aunt Klara has lived a life nobody knew or suspected anything about. Why do we think we know everything about people when in reality we do not? Why do we have these preconceptions about people?
14. Do all of us sometimes need to escape from our ordinary lives? How open should one be towards one's nearest? Are you allowed to have secrets and if so, what kinds of secrets?
15. Klara's and Mark's relationship is built on them meeting a limited amount of time every year. Is such a relation possible?

16. Do you think Klara's decision was the right one?
17. Could you imagine being part of a group like Klara's?
18. Is the environment important for this story and if so, how?
19. What mood characterizes this book?
20. What do you think of the language of the book? Does the language in itself contribute to the story?
21. Is there a certain passage in the book that touched you in particular? Which one? Why?
22. Does this book remind you of another book or film?