

A Reader's Guide for *Voodoo Butterfly* by Camille Faye

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Questions and Topics for Discussion

1. When the novel opens, Sophie is in the midst of a quarter-life crisis. According to Wikipedia, "Common symptoms of a quarter-life crisis are often feelings of being 'lost, scared, lonely or confused' about what steps to take in order to transition properly into adulthood." Is quarter-life crisis something new or has it always happened to young people? Why is quarter-life crisis so identified with millennials?
2. Finding life purpose is an important theme in *Voodoo Butterfly*. Is finding a life purpose important for all people? Does purpose have to be found in order to live a happy life?
3. Inheriting her family's voodoo shop essentially gives Sophie the choice between two very different paths. She can either return to her comfortable, boring life in Saint Louis or live an enchanted, dangerous life in New Orleans. Have you ever had the opportunity for a huge life change? What did you do and how did it affect your life as a whole?
4. Sophie spends much of the novel being out of her comfort zone. Is it important for a character to get out of their comfort zone? Or is it more important for a character to stay true to who they are?
5. Many readers have expressed that they do not like the choices Sophie is making. What choices does Sophie make that don't make sense to you? What choice would you make?
6. Grandma Seraphina's Heaven mimics what made her happiest in life. What would your personal Heaven look like?
7. In *Voodoo Butterfly* women have more power than men with regards to their magical abilities and within their voodoo community. In fact, New Orleans voodoo culture tends to be a matriarchal society with women, like Marie Laveau, holding positions of power. What kind of traits do women bring to the table when they are in positions of power?
8. A Mind Changer is essentially a voodoo superhero who has the power to change evil people good. What do you think about the Mind Changer power? Is it impressive compared with other superhuman powers?