

Grizzly Narrows - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Angus Moon is introduced as both highly disciplined and explosively violent. How does your initial impression of him evolve over the course of the escape and his journey west? Do you ever feel sympathy for him, or is he purely a predator in your eyes?
2. The book continually contrasts two worlds: Angus/Willa's world of predation and manipulation versus Sam/Carmel/Jennifer's domestic, lakeside "normal life." Which scenes best highlight this contrast, and how did that structure affect your sense of suspense?
3. Willa Gunn (Carla/"Wilhelmina") is a planner who uses psychology and seduction instead of brute force. In what ways is she more dangerous than Angus, and in what ways is she more vulnerable? How does the story encourage (or resist) seeing her as a product of her past?
4. Sam Rivers is haunted by "unfinished business" at Grizzly Narrows and his failure to bring Sabin Downer to justice. How do those memories shape his choices in the present, especially around risk, fear, and family? Did you find his guilt and trauma convincing?
5. The Grizzly Narrows flashbacks raise sharp conflicts about conservation, ranching, and who "owns" wild animals. To what extent do you sympathize with Sabin Downer's anger, even as you condemn his actions? What stance do you think the novel ultimately takes on these issues?
6. Fear and courage run through the novel—Sam's fear of heights on the ropes course, Carmel's fear of motherhood changes, Willa's fear of being hunted, Angus's fear of being controlled. Which character's relationship to fear did you find most compelling, and why?
7. The wolf-dog Gray is more than just a pet; he's tied to Angus's past and to Sam's identity as an outdoors officer. How do animals in this story (grizzlies, the wolf-dog, even the "bait" trophy) reflect or refract the human characters' morals and instincts?
8. Much of the tension comes from secrets and withheld information: Carmel's pregnancy, the hidden "bait," Willa's disguises and dice, Sam's incomplete account of the danger to his family. Which secret felt most consequential to you, and how did secrecy drive the plot?
9. The novel uses multiple timelines and perspectives (Angus's escape, Sam's memories, Willa's backstory, the present at Petersons Resort). How effective was this structure for you as a reader? Did it heighten suspense, or ever feel confusing or repetitive?
10. At its core, is this book more about revenge, justice, or survival? How do Sam, Angus, and Willa each define those ideas for themselves—and whose definition, if any, did you find most persuasive or unsettling?

