

BOOK CLUB in a bag



The Guncle

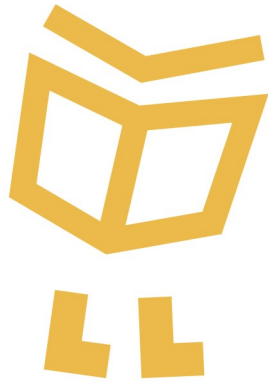
Steven Rowley

Discussion Questions

1. Patrick and his sister, Clara, each has a different viewpoint on what would be best for Maisie and Grant after their mother's death. Which approach did you agree most with? Did that change by the novel's end?
2. Patrick is meant to take care of his niece and nephew for the summer, but Maisie and Grant prove to be just as impactful on Patrick. What do the children teach their uncle? Discuss the ways in which they learn from one another.
3. The Guncle asks the question: At what point does one stop being a kid? How is this explored in Maisie's and Grant's life? What about Patrick's?
4. Which Guncle rule is your favourite? If you had to create a new Guncle Rule, what would it be?
5. JED are an unconventional – and hilarious – set of neighbours. How does the throuple play a role in this novel? What were some of your favourite moments with them?
6. Grief is a major theme throughout The Guncle. Discuss the different ways in which Patrick, Grant, and Maisie each learn to cope with their grief. How do Patrick's memories of Sarah come to impact all of them? Does the endless sunshine of Palm Springs help or hurt them in these darker moments?
7. Why do you think Emory is the first person Patrick considers opening his heart up to since Joe's death? How is Patrick now ready to explore a relationship?
8. By the novel's end, Patrick has decided to revive his acting career. Were you surprised by his choice of project? What type of performance would you love to see Patrick do?
9. Patrick is always his authentic self, something he draws on as a guncle. In what ways does he encourage the kids to celebrate their own unique qualities? Have you had a guncle or an Auntie Mame-type figure in your own life? If so, what have you learned from them?
10. What do you think happens next for Patrick? For Grant and Maisie?



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About the Author

Steven Rowley is the bestselling author of *Lily and the Octopus*, a *Washington Post* Notable Book of 2016, *The Editor*, named by NPR and *Esquire Magazine* as one of the Best Books of 2019, and *The Guncle*, a Goodreads Choice Awards finalist for 2021 Novel of the Year and semi-finalist for The Thurber Prize in American Humor. His fiction has been published in twenty languages.

Lily and the Octopus is in development as a feature film at Amazon Studios. *The Editor* was optioned by Twentieth Century for producer Greg Berlanti. Feature film rights for *The Guncle* have been picked up by Lionsgate. Rowley has worked as a freelance writer, newspaper columnist and screenwriter. Originally from Portland, Maine, he is a graduate of Emerson College and currently resides in Palm Springs with his husband, the writer Byron Lane.

Via the author's website (<https://www.stevenrowley.com/about>)

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