

BOOK CLUB in a bag



Bad Cree

Jessica Johns

Discussion Questions

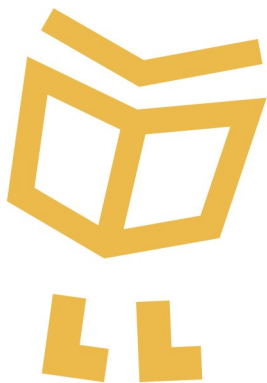
1. How does the book's title, *Bad Cree*, work in relation to its contents? If you could give the book a new title, what would it be?
2. Grief and loss are significant themes in *Bad Cree*. In what ways do the characters experience grief and how does that show up in the novel? Do you think this is an accurate portrayal of the different ways of dealing with loss?
3. Crows appear consistently throughout *Bad Cree*, so much so they are essentially their own characters. How do the appearance of the crows inform the mood of the novel? Does the mood they create when they appear change as the novel progresses?
4. *Bad Cree* is told through the first-person perspective of Mackenzie. Because of this, we see how conflicted and guilt-ridden she feels about her return home after so many years. How would Mackenzie's return be viewed through the point of view of Cassidy, Tracey, and Loretta?
5. Dreams play a central and important role in *Bad Cree*. How do each family member's dreams differ? How do they connect? Why do they feel they couldn't confide in each other about them sooner?
6. The oilfield industry has changed the landscape of Mackenzie's homelands. In what ways do we see these changes manifest?
7. Discuss the ways in which Mackenzie's life changes based on where she is located: Vancouver, BC, and High Prairie, Alberta.
8. When she feels like she's messing up, Mackenzie asks her auntie "Am I a Bad Cree?" What do you think Mackenzie means by that? At what other points does the dichotomy between "good" and "bad" or "right" and "wrong" come up?

"A mystery and a horror story about grief, but one with defiant hope in its beating heart."
—Paul Tremblay, author of *A Head Full of Ghosts*

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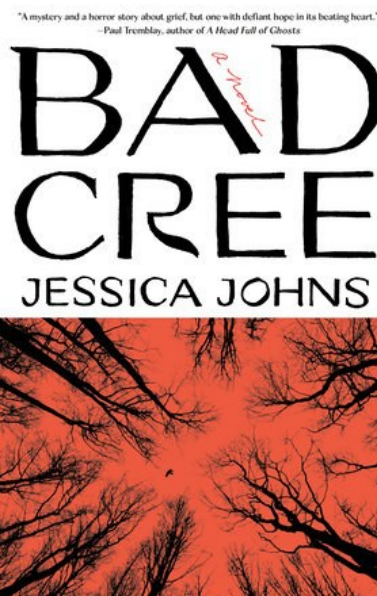


About the Author

JESSICA JOHNS is a Nehiyaw aunty and member of Sucker Creek First Nation in Treaty 8 territory in Northern Alberta. She is an interdisciplinary artist and winner of the 2020 Writers' Trust Journey Prize.

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