

# Fly Catcher

## Guiding Questions for Reading Groups

**Spoilers.** Welcome to Guiding Questions for Reading Groups for the novel *Fly Catcher*. To provide reading groups with informed and thought-provoking questions for this novel it is necessary to reveal important aspects of the plot. If you have not finished reading *Fly Catcher*, perhaps you may want to wait before reviewing this guide. Thank you.

- How does Karen's personal history influence her decision to return to Africa?
- What are Karen's motivations in researching corruption and the disappearance of development aid?
- Why do you think Karen was drawn into a relationship with Francis? Were you sympathetic with her vulnerability?
- How did that relationship, and her meetings with activists Sheku and Songola, change her thinking?
- Was there a connection between the boys Karen saw at Francis's trauma unit and the work Songola was doing on the plantations?
- What was the impact of Songola's death on Karen's desire to help local people?
- What does Dorothy's struggle say about the lives of poor women in Sierra Leone? Do you agree with her methods of resistance against her abusive uncle? What were they?
- What surprised you (or not) about the role of international aid in the developing world?
- What do you understand about the outbreak of civil war in Sierra Leone?
- How did the collaborative relationship between Karen and Dorothy change their understanding of each another? How did you feel about the presence of Karen in Dorothy's hut when Uncle Turay came visiting?
- What did Karen learn about herself during her time in Sierra Leone? What changed in her?
- Which character particular stood out to you? Can you say why?

The author would be interested to know what your reading group thought of *Fly Catcher*. You can contact her through the form on the website: [pccubitt.com](http://pccubitt.com)

*Further reading:* The Blue Alley (February 2025)