

Chemist Discussion Questions

by Stephenie Meyer

Author Bio: (from Fantastic Fiction & stepheniemeyer.com)

Stephenie Meyer is best known for her Twilight series. The four-book collection has sold over 100 million copies globally in over 50 countries. She has written two additional novels and, all together, her books have spent over 303 weeks on the New York Times Bestseller List.



Stephenie graduated from Brigham Young University with a bachelor's degree in English. She lives with her husband and three young sons in Phoenix, Arizona.

Characters:

- **Dr. Juliana Fortis** – (Chris Taylor, Alex) A chemist on the run from her former employers, “The Department,” for three years. She was a doctor working in a lab before they tried to kill her.
- **Arnie** – Kevin’s partner in the dog breeding/training business.
- **Daniel Beach** – High school teacher. Wanted by the department for possible bioterrorism. Had a brother, Kevin, who was killed in prison.
- **Kevin Beach** – Daniel’s brother. Was supposedly killed in prison. Raises guard dogs – Lola, Kahn, & Einstein.
- **Fr. Joseph Barnaby** – Juliana’s mentor and friend in the Department. He was killed in the attack that almost killed Fortis.
- **Carston** – Former upper level coworker in the Department.
- **Deavers** – Second in command of the CIA. Used to be Kevin Beaches’ boss.
- **De la Fuentes** – Mexican drug dealer who is trying to start an outbreak of a deadly influenza.
- **Wade Pace** – Senator from Washington state. Former Lieutenant general. Picked to run as vice president in the next election.
- **Valentine** – (Val/Kate) – Prostitute Kevin knows. Owns a very private condo.



There is an alternate epilogue written for “The Chemist” that you can download from Meyer’s website: <https://stepheniemeyer.com/2017/01/read-the-chemist-epilogue/>



Discussion Questions:

1. Did you like the book? Why or why not?
2. This book was written in from the third person point of view, but is limited to Alex's point of view. Did you like that style of storytelling? Why or why not? Was it effective?
3. This book is billed as a political thriller. Do you think it is? Why or why not?
4. Who was your favorite character? Who was your least favorite? Why?
5. One of the main criticisms of this book is that it starts off slow and some readers have a hard time continuing with it. Did you have that experience? What do you think of the pacing of the book? What do you think the author of the book could have done to fix the slow start?
6. Juliana is physically small, petite, and not very strong. Yet, she is one of the top interrogators in her department. How are her physical characteristics disadvantages in her work? How are they advantages?
7. If you were hiding from the government or a dangerous organization/individual, what would you do to make yourself inconspicuous?
8. The main character in the book changes her name multiple times in the book and each time the author uses the current name as the main character's name. Did you think this helped or harmed the story? Were the name changes confusing for you?
9. Juliana interrogates Daniel in a particularly painful way. He seems to be able to put that aside and stick with her for the remainder of the story. Is that realistic? Would you be able to forgive and forget in the same way as Daniel did?
10. Do you believe in love at 1st sight?
11. Daniel keeps making "normal" mistakes as they are running. Are those mistakes understandable or should he have taken more care? What types of "normal" mistakes might you make, if you were one the run?
12. Kevin and Arnie train guard dogs. Do you think some of the feats the dogs perform in this story are exaggerated or can dogs be trained in the manner Einstein, Kahn, and Lola are trained?
13. Fortis' department refers to her as "The Chemist." The CIA refers to her as "Oleander," which is a toxic plant. Juliana finds the CIA's nom de guerre insulting. Why does she like "The Chemist" but hate "Oleander"?
14. Do you believe "Black" programs, such as the one Dr. Fortis was in, actually exist? Why or why not?
15. Dr. Fortis is only referred to as "The Chemist" once in the entire book. Why do you think Meyers decided to go with "**The Chemist**" as this book's title? Do you think this was an appropriate name for the book?
16. What do you think of the books ending and epilogue? Did you like it? Why or why not?
17. Meyer is best known for her teen paranormal romance book series "Twilight." If you have read them, how does this book compare?
18. Meyer has written 6 books. 4 in the Twilight series and two adult stand-alone novels. Will you read any of them?

References:

- Fantastic Fiction – <https://www.fantasticfiction.com/m/stephenie-meyer/>
- Goodreads – <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/32940867-the-chemist>
- Novelist – <http://web.b.ebscohost.com/novp/detail?vid=2&sid=6af55054-0a8d-4574-929b-862abe8e8b52%40sessionmgr104&bdata=JnNpdGU9bm92cC1saXZl#UI=10539794&db=neh>
- Stephenie Meyer website – <https://stepheniemeyer.com/>

Stephenie Meyer's Books

Twilight Saga

1. Twilight (2005)
- 1.75. Life and Death (2016)
2. New Moon (2006)
3. Eclipse (2007)
- 3.5. The Short Second Life of Bree Tanner (2010)
4. Breaking Dawn (2008)

Stand-Alones

- The Host (2008)
- The Chemist (2016)

If you liked The Chemist, try...

- The Blood Whisperer – Zoe Sharo
- Void Moon – Michael Connelly
- End Game – David Baldacci
- Quick & Dirty – Woods, Stuart
- Kept Woman – Karin Slaughter