

Boy in the Suitcase Discussion Questions

by Lene Kaaberbøl & Agnete Friis

Author Bio: (<http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/k/lene-kaaberbol/> & Wikipedia)

Lene Kaaberbøl (coauthor) - a Danish writer living in Copenhagen, Denmark. She writes children's fantasy books and crime fiction for adults. She teaches English and drama when she is not writing new stories or translating her own books into English. She translated the book into English.

Agnete Friis (Coauthor) - a Danish writer who has published children and adolescent literature as well as coauthoring the Nina Borg series. She also works as a journalist.

Characters:

- **Jan Marquart** – Wealthy Danish businessman. Owns M-Tech. Married to Anne.
- **Anne Marquart** – Married to Jan. Her father is Keld.
- **Andrius Jucas** – Lithuanian “Car dealership” employee (front for mafia). Dating Barbara. Works for Klimka.
- **Barbara Woronska** – Polish woman dating Jucas. “Woman with Chocolate.”
- **Sigita Ramoskiene** – Lithuanian mother working as an accountant for Janus Construction. Has 3-year old son Mikas. Separated from husband Darius.
- **Mikas Ramoskiene** – Sigita’s 3-year old son. Missing. Boy in suitcase.
- **Karin Kongsted** – Jan Marquart’s private nurse. Tasked with picking up the suitcase.
- **Nina Borg**– Nurse who works at a Red Cross Center for immigrant refugees named Ellen’s Place (aka the Coal-House Camp). Married to Morton, she has a son, Anton, and a daughter, Ida. Picks up the suitcase for Karin.
- **Morten Borg** – Nina’s Husband. Works on oil rigs.
- **Magnus** – Doctor at Coal-House Camp.
- **Guzas** – police officer who takes Sigita’s statement.

Discussion Questions:

1. Did you like the book? Why or why not?
2. Did you have a problem following the book due to it being set in Denmark?
3. The book’s narration moves back and forth between the various characters. Did that help or harm the books structure. Did you always know who you were reading about?

4. If you found a boy in a suitcase in a locker, what would you do?
5. Who was your favorite character? Why?
6. Were you engaged immediately in the book or did it take you a while to "get into it"?
7. If you were Nina, how would you have tried to find Mikas' mother? What if you could not go to the police?
8. How does the fact that Nina works with refugees (both legal and illegal) affect the way she deals with the boy in the suitcase?
9. How do you think the idea (or different ideas) of "family" impacted this book?
10. Why did Sigita refuse to do the newscast reporting Mikas missing?
11. If you had a sick/terminal child, to what lengths would you go to get them better? Do Jan's motivations justify what happened?
12. Why was looking for/knowing the time so important to Nina?
13. What kind of character is Nina Borg? Which of her personality traits do you admire...or dislike? Is she a complete character?
14. What do you think of Anne? Did you like her as a character? Do you agree with her taking the blame for shooting Jucas?
15. Why is Jan okay with receiving an organ in a box but not a live boy?
16. Why do you think Nina didn't contact her family while she was with Mikas?
17. If you were Sigita, would you donate your kidney? Why or Why not?
18. Does this mystery thriller deliver in terms of suspense and surprise? Is the storyline and the ending predictable? Is the story credible?
19. Did any part of the book make you uncomfortable? If so, why did you feel that way?
20. There are currently 4 books in the Nina Borg series. Will you read any of the other books in this series? Other series by Lene Kaaberbøl?

References:

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- Readful Things - <http://readfulthingsblog.com/2013/04/09/the-boy-in-the-suitcase-submitted-by-littlelillipushkin/>
- Wikipedia - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agnete_Friis
- Wikipedia - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lene_Kaaberb%C3%B8l

If you liked *Boy in the Suitcase*, try...

- [Snow Angels](#) - James Thompson
- [The Andalucian Friend](#) - Alexander Soderberg
- [Sun Storm](#) - Asa Larsson
- [Sharp Objects](#) - Gillian Flynn
- [Drowned](#) - Therese Bohman

Nina Borg Mystery Series (Lene Kaaberbøl)

1. **The Boy in the Suitcase** (2011) (with Agnete Friis)
2. **Invisible Murders** (2012) (with Agnete Friis)
3. **Death of a Nightingale** (2013)
4. **The Considerate Killer** (2016) (with Agnete Friis)

Lene Kaaberbøl has 6 additional books not in the Nina Borg series.