

Discussion Questions for POSTHUMOUSLY YOURS

1. In the beginning of *Posthumously Yours*, the narrator states that he wants to introduce himself to his reading audience—yet never actually does by telling us his name. How does the introduction set up or manage your expectations for what type of story is about to unfold?
2. Charles Braun, the narrator and author, claims that he has always felt “hollowed out” (reference bottom of page 18). Does Charles’ relationship with his mother, whom he nicknames Mel, undermine the notion that Charles has never felt a strong emotional bond with anyone? Does this make Charles’ personal discourse on suicide somewhat whimsical and arbitrary despite his lifelong consideration of committing?
3. Charles says at least twice in the novel that he feels liberated and free after Mel has passed. Do you trust this feeling? Should Charles trust himself?
4. There is a subtle distinction between the author and character/narrator in the novel. Charles the author has the capability to speak from the mouths of other characters, especially regarding the subject matter of suicide. On the other hand, Charles the narrator/character mainly speaks for himself, telling the story from his perspective. Keeping this distinction in mind, is Charles’s final decision in total alignment with the novel’s message about suicide? Which characters in the novel outrightly disagree with his personal philosophy on suicide?
5. Maeve and Grace are morally grey, or, in other words, unconventional and non-conformist. Is this why Charles gravitates and is more receptive to them than other people? Compare the conversation he has with the chaplain with the conversation he has with Maeve (reference chapter, Today is the Worst Day in the Rest of Your Life). Does this comparison make the tone and attitude of a person’s ethos more significant regarding how we should offer support to those in need? If yes, explain.
6. Charles comes into contact with other people who have struggled with suicide. As a character in literature, how does this affect his character development and his views on suicide?
7. Do you agree with Charles’s decision? Can suicide ever be justifiable—to outsiders or, even, to those who are considering the act?
8. How does Maeve’s support of Charles affect the entire situation? Does it influence him and if so, how?
9. Is Maeve’s decision to withhold the letter from Charles an unforgiveable moral error? If you agree with Maeve’s decision, why?
10. How does the final section, which frames Charles’s story through the transcription of a radio interview, offer perspective? Do we gain insights about Charles?