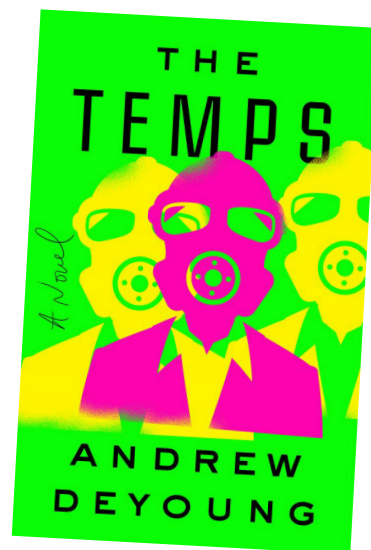


- What were your first impressions of Jacob? Do you think the author intends for us to like him? Is it important to like the protagonist of a story?
- Why do you think the author included chapters in the voices of multiple characters? How do their perspectives and stories shape the novel? How did you feel about the shift in narration? Which character in the book did you most identify with and why?
- Lauren thinks that she was born “into a time when the entire world had lost its soul.” What do you think of this premise?
- “Swati suspected [her loved ones] were dead, hoped they were not, and she wasn’t sure which was worse: the suspecting or the hope.” Which do you think is worse?
- Discuss the shifting power hierarchies in the novel. Who did you trust the most? The least?
- How did the dangers of the world around Jacob and Swati shape the blossoming romance between them? Do you think they actually had feelings for each other?
- Swati’s ex, Jared, told her, “No one participates in the capitalist system and comes out clean.” What do you think he means by this? Do you agree with that sentiment?
- What does the novel suggest about corporate culture?
- Dominic became obsessed with the idea of working for Delphi Enterprises after reading an article that profiled CEO Tristan Brandt “with a reverence that was almost religious.” Can you think of some real-life examples of our cultural obsession with billionaires?
- “Concierge was making his life better in a thousand small ways; privacy seemed a small price to pay.” Would you use the Concierge app? Do you use apps like Apple Health or Facebook? Do you view these differently after reading this book?



- Discuss Casey and his group of data entry bros. What did you think of their theory about the gas being part of an experiment?
- Discuss examples of male privilege throughout the book. What role does gender play in the novel? What differences did you see between the experiences of men and women?
- *The Temps* is chock full of millennial angst and quarter-life existential crises. Discuss some examples. Could you relate?
- Swati and Lauren express optimism about the world now being a blank slate. Jacob finds the endless possibilities terrifying. What's your take?
- DeYoung uniquely weaves a darkly humorous thread throughout the book. When did you find yourself laughing out loud?
- Were you surprised to learn the truth about the origin of the gas? How did you feel about it? Do you think that an apocalypse of this nature could actually happen?
- Brandt tells Jane, "Negative feeling—evil, for lack of a better term—is the fundamental ground of humanity." What do you make of this? Do you agree? Why or why not?
- Were you surprised by the ending? How did you think the story was going to evolve prior to the penultimate chapter? What do you imagine will happen next?

Eager to keep *The Temps* discussion going? Check out our exclusive Author Q&A with Andrew DeYoung, plus a Meeting Planner and Recommended Next Reads, available at [theclub.hoopladigital.com](http://theclub.hoopladigital.com).

