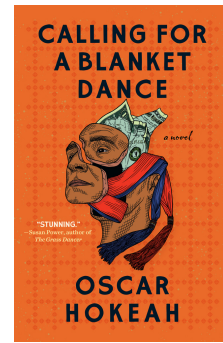


CALLING FOR A BLANKET DANCE

by
Oscar Hokeah



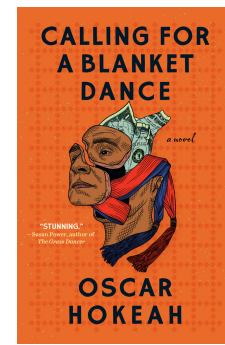
Discussion Questions

1. What do you think the significance of the N. Scott Momaday quotation at the beginning of the book is? “They have assumed the names and gestures of their enemies, but have held on to their own, secret souls; and in this there is a resistance and an overcoming, a long outwaiting.” - N. Scott Momaday
2. In the first chapter, baby Ever witnesses an act of violence. What impact does this have?
3. Turtle and Lena argue about whether it is better to live amongst Cherokee people or Kiowa people. What is the background for this clash?
4. Vincent struggles with alcohol addiction and suffers a medical diagnosis in silence. How does this affect the way he interacts with his family?
5. There are many descriptions of the regalia, craft and tradition Vincent wishes to pass down. Discuss the nature of art and craftsmanship in this novel and how it relates to family.
6. Ever struggles with attending school, and a social worker eventually pays a visit. How did this scene make you feel?
7. Ever had a strong reaction to the art in the Chero-Hawk store, and eventually learns how to use the seedpods to make his own “booger mask”. What did you think of the seedpod story?
8. Why does Ever refuse to go inside the quinceañera? What is his relationship with his Mexican family/heritage?
9. Does young Ever need to be saved?
10. What do we think about Quinton when he gets older?
11. Characters frequently mention “per cap” money. Did you notice how the bank teller treated these transactions?
12. Turtle witnesses Sissy’s relationship with Tank- including her pregnancy. How would you have reacted in this situation?
13. Was it Ever’s relationship with Boo Right that inspired him to join the military? What is the significance of this choice?



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14. Ever becomes engaged to Lonnie Nowater. Talk about this relationship and Lonnie's place in the story.
15. What do you think about the vandalism situation involving the Comanche Code Talker Memorial?
16. Pow wows are described as "a place to be rescued, healed, given a second chance". What does this mean?
17. Jimena and Ever visit family in Mexico. Do their Mexican family members treat them differently?
18. Why do you think Ever didn't attend his father's funeral?
19. Jimena receives bad news from a doctor about her unborn child. The family then contacts "a well-known medicine man in Kiowa and Cherokee circles". Jimena also visits with Catholic priests. Talk about these scenes.
20. The family gathers around Tortuga Bebe after she is born and have some difficult conversations. Can you relate to this scene?
21. What do you think about the way Ever treats Leander? Recall his instruction to Leander that he must draw when he feels himself getting angry.
22. Do you think Ever found the right career for himself? What led him to this job?
23. Does Leander remind you of anyone? Whether in this book or real life?
24. Ever teaches Leander that small expectations rise like water. What does this mean?
25. Opbee's chapter deals with the importance of the quilts that Lena had made. Discuss the situation surrounding them.
26. Does Ever react to Shandi's behavior issues differently from how he reacted to Leander's? Why or why not?
27. What is Ever and Jimena's relationship like now that they've separated?
28. What did you think of the Cherokee Nation housing scene at the end of the novel?
29. What did you think about the way Oscar Hokeah wrote each chapter from different perspectives? Which character's point of view resonated with you the most?