

Reading Group Guide for *In Another Light* by A. J. Banner

1. Why did A. J. Banner choose to make Phoebe Glassman a mortuary cosmetologist? What aspects of Phoebe's profession surprised, fascinated and/or repelled you? How do her special skills help her investigate the truth about the doppelganger on the mortuary table?
2. How would you describe Phoebe as a character? How does her character change as the story progresses?
3. In the beginning, Phoebe "walks the earth, but she might as well be a phantom flitting through her life unnoticed, disturbing the air but barely registering her presence." Discuss this sense of feeling removed or invisible in the world. Have you ever felt this way?
4. As Phoebe investigates her connection to her doppelganger, did you begin to distrust any characters in the story? If so, which ones and why?
5. How would you react in Phoebe's situation, if you were to see someone who appeared to be a lost loved one? How do you feel about the way Phoebe reacted?
6. What role does Mike play in the story, and how does Phoebe's relationship with him evolve? At one point, he withholds certain information and allows Phoebe to reach her own conclusions. Did you agree with his decision? Why or why not?
7. Inside Phoebe's house, "the past exerts its own gravity, the air heavy with dust and memories." How does her home contrast with Mike's log cabin, her mother's apartment, and her home at the end of the book?
8. Discuss Phoebe's marriage to Logan versus her parents' marriage. What roles do marital secrets play in the story? What do you believe is the strongest romantic relationship in the story, and why?
9. Did Phoebe's final realization about what happened to her husband and daughter surprise you? How did you feel about this revelation?
10. In Chapter 18, Phoebe recalls Dr. Ogawa saying, "Grief can play with the mind." How does grief play with Phoebe's mind? And at the end of Chapter 33, Phoebe thinks "that she had worked through her sorrow—but grief is never finished. It just becomes a part of you. She knows that now." What does this mean to you?
11. Do you feel the theme of the book is ultimately hopeful or pessimistic? Why? How do you picture Phoebe's future?
12. Why do you think the book is called *In Another Light*? To what does the title refer?