

Beyond Bestsellers Book Discussion Group
April 26, 2018

The Happiness Bureau

1. Albert Happy has a very controlled life before the E 45 request from Anna Sugus. How did you feel about his life before and was there any part of it that you could relate to in your own?
2. Albert transitions from dealing with lifeless requests to helping the humans behind the requests. In what way was he uniquely qualified for this work?
3. Anna calls Albert an artist. What was it that Anna saw in Albert to make her think he was one?
4. Albert goes through a transition with Anna as a catalyst. Anna says that Albert has changed her for the better as well, although we don't see that as much as readers. Is there something more to their relationship and transitions than just a balancing of extremes?
5. Anna's art takes the form of changing a can of pineapple into lentil soup. How did you feel about this kind of 'art'?
6. Mike Schulze, the office mate of Elizabeth Seel, is a real jerk when we meet him, but later we find out that he is taking care of his sick mother. Why do you think the author included this character and did your feelings about Mike change?
7. Author does not tell Anna about his tumor until he can no longer hide it. Do you think this was the right decision?
8. In an almost parallel way, Anna hides the portrait she is doing of him and he only sees it because he sneaks a peak before he dies. Does hiding something while in the 'process' make sense?