



## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### **The Six-Liter Club**

*By Harry Kraus*

*Discussion Guide provided courtesy of [www.HarryKraus.com](http://www.HarryKraus.com) and [Simon and Schuster](http://SimonandSchuster.com)*

1. What does it mean to be part of the six-liter club? What did it mean to Dr. Weller in particular? How was she conflicted after she saved a patient's life and became part of the club?
2. After Dr. Gilles questioned Dr. Weller's judgment when she didn't ask for help with the six-liter patient (Kendrick Solomon), she made sure to gather herself and get out of the situation before she started to cry. Why was it so important to her to not cry in front of her male colleagues? Why is there such a stigma against surgeons who show emotion and is how is this stigma magnified by the fact that Dr. Weller is a woman?
3. When Camille is trying to explain to Mark what happened to her parents in the Congo back in 1964, Mark doesn't know what Simbas are. She notes that his ignorance of reality outside his small U.S. life is woefully common among Americans. Is she being too hard on him by expecting him to know about the politics of the country she was born in? Is she overly sensitive about it because her childhood was so tumultuous?
4. Shortly after the 'locker room' incident, Dr. Bradford tells Dr. Weller it'd be best if she didn't make any more waves and if she played by the rules. Was he right in giving her this advice? Was he looking out for her best interests or the best interests of the status quo? Was he thinking more about her personal need for expression or the industry's demand that surgeons fall in line?
5. Did it seem easier for Dr. Weller to overcome the fact that she was half African-America or a woman in the medical industry? Which of these two defining characteristics did her peers seem to have more of a problem with?

6. At Dr. Weller's welcome reception, her best friend Kara asked her, 'Why can't you be who you want to be? Instead of what Gilles expects of his boys?' Why did this statement from Kara bother her so much? Why is she so desperate to be accepted by the doctors in the 'boys club'?
7. Camille starts having debilitating panic attacks, which she discusses with Kara when they go to the Tobacco Company to watch the Boston Redsox game. At this point, what do you think is causing the attacks? What is Camille afraid of? Failure? The pressure of a new job? Her feelings for Mark? A past she can't remember?
8. When Tina Kinser first comes to visit Dr. Weller, she notes that, 'Identifying with the emotions of your patients can make you a more effective healer.' How does Tina help Camille change her mind about this notion as time goes on?
9. Did Tina find satisfaction in cheating on her husband Dan, as he had done to her before? Did she ever truly feel guilty or was her marriage so over by the time she started cheating on him that she didn't feel much regret at all?
10. Why does Camille feel so guilty about Kara's death? Do you agree or disagree that she was responsible for Kara's death to some degree? Should she have been stronger and tried harder to prevent Kara from drinking that night?
11. Mark keeps mentioning to Camille that she is changing. What does he mean by this and when did this start happening? Was it spawned from her unexpected maternal relationship with Kendrick Solomon? Was it, as Mark suggested, that some mothering instinct has kicked in since she lost Kara?
12. Do you agree with the way Tina and Camille handled the situation with Mark in Chicago after they both found out about each other? Do you think it was strange that Camille could be so in love with Mark and then cut off the relationship with no explanation from Mark at all?

13. Do you feel that Kendrick and his father Clive being shot by the same gun in similar incidents but Kendrick living and Clive dying is fate? How did this change Camille's opinion on faith and a Higher Power?
14. Does finding out the truth about her father at the Christ for the World dinner in Chicago give Camille the final closure about her father that she has always wanted?
15. Camille experiences a relatively sudden religious adoption toward the end of the book. What do you think was the major turning point for her? What was the major incident that prompted her religious realization?

### **Enhance Your Book Club**

1. Discuss any major personal obstacles you've had to overcome. Talk about how you overcame the obstacle and how you think that changed you as a person.
2. Camille carried a picture of her mother in her wallet. Bring in a picture of someone who has inspired you. Describe the person and explain how they inspired you.
3. Many professions have their own 'Six-Liter Clubs'. Is there something similar in your profession? Research other clubs like this in various professions (law enforcement, teaching, fire-fighting, etc.). Discuss what it might have meant for Camille to be part of the Six-Liter Club and what it would mean to be part of those clubs in other professions.