

RODIN'S LOVER Book Club Questions:

1. Compare the art world through the eyes of a woman during the Belle Époque to those of a man. How did the values during this time shape those perceptions?
2. How might a sculptor's daily routines differ from those of a painter or other artists?
3. Camille had difficulty in her relationships with women. Why do you think that is?
4. Paul, beloved brother and later famed playwright and diplomat, adored his sister in spite of her volatile temper and demanding ways. Yet their relationship took a turn for the worst. What factors prompted this turn?
5. Do you believe Auguste really loved Camille? Why or why not?
6. Relationships between lovers are complex. Did you find Rodin's infidelity justified?
7. The lines between obsession and madness can often blur as demonstrated by several of the characters in the book. Discuss the variety of ways the author portrays this concept in the story.
8. Scandal, or "no press is bad press", is a modern philosophy, yet it seemed to follow both of the lovers. Do you think the negative attention helped Camille gain exposure or hindered her admittance into the art circles as a bona fide talent?
9. With the onset of Camille's mental illness, she became more isolated, more paranoid, and, consequently her work suffered. Given our advances in medicine and neuro-science today, do you think she would have been able to continue to pursue her art in today's world despite her illness?
10. Which piece of either Camille's or Auguste's do you most admire?