

**Book Club Questions for  
Good Night, Irene by Luis Alberto Urrea**

1. Irene and Dorothy both have distinct motivations for joining the Clubmobile Corps. What do you believe are their individual expectations and desires in joining, and do they ultimately find what they were seeking?
2. The Rapid City's commandments include phrases like "Roll on down the road," "Don't look back," and "Never surrender." How do these principles manifest in the daily lives of the women? How does adhering to these commandments influence their perception of their role in the war?
3. Dorothy observes that everyone adores Irene. Why do you think Irene cultivates this particular image of herself? How does her self-presentation differ from Dorothy's when interacting with the GIs? Do the personas they project to the soldiers contrast with who they truly are to each other?
4. The book's ending has received mixed reviews. What are your thoughts on how the author chose to conclude Irene and Dorothy's story? Did it feel satisfying and true to their characters, or did it leave you with unanswered questions?
5. Luis Alberto Urrea based this novel on his mother's experiences as a Donut Dollie. How did the real-life inspiration add depth and authenticity to the story? Did knowing this background information change your perspective on the book?
6. Throughout the novel, there are moments of humor, camaraderie, and resilience amidst the grim backdrop of war. Can you share some of your favorite quotes or scenes that highlighted these aspects of the story?
7. Irene and Dorothy undergo a significant shift in their perspectives on the war during one night in a small French town. How does this particular night alter their outlooks on the war, soldiers, and officers?
8. How does the transition from the front lines to R&R in Cannes prompt the women to reflect on their wartime experiences thus far? Would they have arrived at these realizations without the break? In what ways does the break affect their return to the Rapid City and their ongoing service?
9. Zoot's various encounters with the women reveal different facets of his character, particularly in relation to his views on the deaths of both combatants and non-combatants. How does he perceive death, and how do his perspectives evolve throughout the war?
10. The book features the friendship between Irene and Dorothy, two very different women who become Donut Dollies during World War II. How did their personalities and backgrounds shape their experiences in the war? How did their friendship evolve throughout the story?

11. Irene leaves behind an abusive fiancé in New York to join the Red Cross. How did her decision to enlist impact her personal growth and her perception of self-worth? How did her experiences in the war change her as a person?
12. Dorothy is a complex character who carries a lot of anger and pain due to her brother's death and her family's losses. How did her character evolve as she faced the challenges of war and developed her friendship with Irene? What did you think about her quest for revenge?
13. During the Battle of the Bulge, Irene finds herself alone at Bastogne and begins to lose a sense of herself, time, and reality without her truckmates. How do her companions anchor her, and how has her identity become intertwined with the truck and her fellow crew members?
14. Throughout the book, the Rapid City receives letters from soldiers they've encountered. What role do these letters play? How do they impact the women and their experiences?
15. The book depicts the harrowing liberation of Buchenwald concentration camp. How did the author's vivid descriptions of this event impact your understanding of the horrors of World War II? How did it affect the characters involved, particularly Irene and Dorothy?
16. Irene falls in love with Hans, an American fighter pilot. How did their love story add to the overall narrative of the book? How did it provide a sense of hope and connection during the wartime setting?
17. The book sheds light on the often-overlooked role of women in World War II, specifically the Donut Dollies. How did reading about their contributions change your perception of the war and its impact on women's lives?
18. If this book were to be adapted into a movie, who would you cast in the roles of Irene and Dorothy, and why? What scenes do you think would be especially powerful on the big screen?