

STELLA BARCELONA

Imagine Book Club Discussion Questions

1. Black Raven agents Sylvia Leon (Leo) and Adam Evans (Ace), the lead characters in *Imagine*, were best friends for two years before their first kiss. Do you believe that one kiss between two friends can dramatically alter a friendship? Was Leo's reaction to their kiss understandable? How about Ace's?
2. Could you envision the cruise ship based upon the author's description? Which scene in the story provided the most memorable images of setting, and why?
3. If you could go on a cruise anywhere in the world, where would it be? Why would you select that location for a cruise, rather than a non-cruising trip?
4. When strategizing how to regain control of the cruise ship, Ace and Leo discuss "Entebbe." Are you familiar with the 1976 hijacking of the Air France flight that was en route from Tel Aviv to Paris, and the rescue mission that followed in Entebbe, Uganda? Does your knowledge of the hijacking come through contemporaneous news reports, historical accounts, movies, or another source? What did you think of the author's use of this real-life event in *Imagine*?
5. What did you think of the story pacing? Discuss the parts of the story that flowed fastest, and slowest, for you.
6. The defining moment in Leo's life that provided motivation for her to become a Black Raven agent involves September 11, 2001. Do you believe that Leo's reaction to the events that occurred on that day was plausible? Where were you on that day? How old were you? How did it affect your life?
7. In one scene in *Imagine*, Leo hears the "Dance of the Sugarplum Fairy" and is almost overcome with emotion. In another scene, she becomes happy when she hears "When the Saints Go Marching In." Do certain songs inspire visceral reactions in you? Which songs, and why?
8. Ace and Leo have a running joke where they limit their eating for a day to foods that start with a certain letter. If you had to choose one letter, and could only eat foods that start with that letter for an entire day, which letter would it be? How long could you go without eating any of those foods? (A note from the author – I would choose P (pasta, popcorn, potatoes, pizza, etc.) and wouldn't (couldn't!) go more than a couple of days without P foods).
9. (a) What did you think of Ace and Leo's Christmas gifts to one another? In Leo's letter to Ace, she explains her motivation behind her gift for Ace; Ace's motivation for the gift that he gives Leo is explained more subtly. Why do you believe Ace gave Leo the gift that he did?

(b) What is the most meaningful gift that you have ever received? On what occasion did you receive it? What made it so meaningful?
10. In terms of Ace and Leo's relationship, did you find the end of *Imagine* satisfying? Did you believe the ending was plausible within the context of their relationship?

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11. (a) Have you read other novels in the Black Raven series? If not, did you feel that you understood the world of Black Raven sufficiently to enjoy *Imagine*? If you've read other novels in the series, was your prior knowledge beneficial to your enjoyment of *Imagine*?
- (b) Do you read other fiction series? Describe what you enjoy about the series—are there recurring characters, similar plot elements, and/or plots that span several books?
12. If *Imagine* were made into a movie, who do you think would best play Ace? Leo? Which scene(s) provided the most memorable images of the characters and would best translate to film?