

# The Society of Shame

## Book Club Discussion Guide

1. When the picture taken in the opening scene of *The Society of Shame* goes viral, the public is more fixated on the menstrual stain on Kathleen's pants than on her husband's infidelity. Do you think this would be the case in real life, too? Why do you think the author chose to use a period stain as the source of "shame" that sets Kathleen's story in motion?

2. The #YesWeBleed movement is fictional, but there are, in fact, many real-life activists working to destigmatize menstruation and make period products more available and affordable. Do you think attitudes around menstruation are changing? Have your own attitudes changed at all over time?

3. Like most satire, *The Society of Shame* exaggerates and/or pokes fun at real life issues, trends, and behaviors as a way of critiquing or commenting on them. What are some ways that the author did this? Which ones did you find particularly interesting, effective, or entertaining?

4. The members of Danica's Society of Shame (and Danica herself) all did things that resulted in them being shamed by the public. Do you think the real-life consequences each of them faced were appropriate for what they did? Which members of the society (if any) did you feel sympathy toward? Which ones were harder to forgive?

5. What questions or ideas did the book raise for you about "cancel culture" and online shaming? Did it change your views at all?

6. What do you think of how Kathleen's daughter Aggie responds to the #YesWeBleed movement versus how Kathleen does? How are the two of them alike, and how are they different?

7. What do you think of the ending of the book? Was it unexpected, or did you see it coming?

8. Do you think Kathleen grew or changed as a person as a result of her experiences? What about any other characters? What do you think their lives will look like going forward?

9. If you could ask the author one question, what would it be?  
(Note: If you'd like to invite the author to your book group via Zoom or in person, you can ask her yourself! Visit [janeroper.com/contact](http://janeroper.com/contact))



## Suggested Cocktail

# The Yes We Bleed

1-1/2 ounces dark rum  
3/4 ounces Campari  
1-1/2 ounces pineapple juice  
1/2 ounce lime juice, freshly squeezed  
1/2 ounce simple syrup (demera syrup is best!)  
A pinch of shame

Combine everything in a cocktail shaker and shake vigorously, then strain into a glass over ice. Garnish with a pineapple wedge and a tampon.

Enjoy!



Created by mixologist and tiki hut proprietor Whitney Scharer, author of *The Age of Light*