The Measure - 20 Discussion Questions

Printable discussion sheet | Choose 6 to 8 prompts for a 60 to 75 minute meeting

Host note	The book discusses mortality, discrimination, grief and suicide. Let members pass without explanation.

1. Would you open your box? What value would knowledge give you, and what would it take away?
2. Which character gave you the clearest way into the premise?
3. Did the many viewpoints widen the novel or keep you at a distance?
4. At what point did the strings feel less like a mystery and more like a social fact?
5. Would the story work if the string gave only a broad range rather than a precise lifespan?
6. Which character remains most recognisably themselves after learning about the strings?
7. How do Nina and Maura make different kinds of choices about love and risk?
8. What does Ben learn from his friendship with Hank that private reflection could not teach him?
9. When does refusing to reveal a string become an act of privacy, and when does it affect another person?
10. Does the label “short-stringer” describe a fact, an identity imposed by others, or both?
11. Which public response to the strings felt most believable: medical screening, employment decisions, insurance, politics or social avoidance?
12. How does Anthony Rollins turn fear into political power?
13. Does the novel show discrimination developing gradually, or arriving as soon as a category becomes visible?
14. Which institution should have protected short-stringers first, and what stopped it?
15. What present-day form of classification did the book make you think about without being a direct allegory?
16. How did the final time jump change the meaning of the earlier choices?
17. Which death felt narratively necessary, and which felt designed to make a point?
18. Does knowing the length of life help any character live more honestly?
19. What does the novel finally suggest is measurable, and what remains outside measurement?
20. After discussing the book, has your answer to the opening-box question changed?

Best disagreement: _____

Next book or action: _____