

The Alienist by Caleb Carr Book Club

1. What do you think of the 1st person narration?
2. Is 1919 a good place to begin a story that is set in 1896?
3. Should it have been labeled a prologue?
4. Does the book convey the setting effectively?
5. Does the history of the book feel authentic?
6. What do you think of Laszlo Kreizler?
7. Is John Moore, the narrator and reporter, the hero of the story?
8. Cyrus is Kreizler's African American valet, what do you think of him?
9. Do you like Theodore Roosevelt in this book?
10. What do you think of Sara Howard?
11. What do you think of the philosophy and psychology in this book?
12. Is Kreizler a profiler working on a serial killer case?
13. Do the descriptions of New York in 1896 make you appreciate 2017?
14. Is it strange to read about fingerprinting as an unproven tactic?
15. Was it stupid for Moore to take a drink in the brothel?
16. Does a mob going to a crime scene seem odd to our modern sensibilities?
17. What do you think of the murderer being a mountain climber?
18. Does it seem like there was a lot of violence against children in the book?
19. What did you think of the letter from the killer?
20. What do you think of the involvement of the church men?
21. Does Sing Sing sound horrifying? (still open)
22. Is the foreshadowing helpful?
23. What did you think about the way that they figured out the killer?
24. Could the book have ended more quickly?
25. Was the murder of Mary necessary for the story?
26. What did you think of the section of the book that didn't contain Kreizler?
27. What did you think of the ending?
28. Did you like the book?
29. Would you read other books by the author?