

Readers Corner

Discussion questions for May 28, 2024

The Dutch House

by Anne Patchett

Intro: What were your initial thoughts on the novel?

1. What might Danny mean when he says, “the house was the story” or that it was “impossible”?

2. What explains why Elna Conroy abandoned her children? What is justified?

3. After reuniting, Elna tells Maeve and Danny that when she left she “knew [they] were going to be fine.” In what ways did they end up fine or not?