

ANTOINE LAURAIN

The Red Notebook

1.

How does the novel bring Paris to life and what does the setting give to this story of mystery and love? Is Paris a character in this work?

2.

Described in one review as, 'like finding a gem among the bric-a-brac', the book was written while Laurain worked as an assistant in a Parisien antiques shop. Is this world evident through Laurain's writing?

3.

Laurent often 'oversteps the mark' in his pursuit of Laure, most notably by entering her apartment without permission. Do you find his pursuit romantic or troubling? Does the narrative provide a perspective on this?

4.

The world of 'The Red Notebook' is literary and bookish. Patrick Modiano features as a character; books, and bookshops all play important roles, both to create atmosphere and as part of the story. What is the effect of this 'bookish' world? Is it merely atmospheric and fun or does it say something about the importance of literature?

5.

At various points in the novel, the form changes, moving from straightforward narration to notes and diary entries. What effects does this create? How do these changes in form and style relate to the story at these moments?