



## **The Dust of 100 Dogs**

by A.S. King

Flux Books

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Young Adult Fiction

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*In the late seventeenth century, famed teenage pirate Emer Morrisey was on the cusp of escaping pirate life with her one true love and unfathomable riches when she was slain and cursed with the dust of 100 dogs, dooming her to one hundred lives as a dog before returning to a human body—with all her memories intact.*

*Now she's a contemporary American teenager, and all she needs is a shovel and a ride to Jamaica.*

"Compelling, the nonlinear plot will offer more advanced adolescent readers a challenge they do not often get while reading young adult literature."

—**ForeWord Magazine**

A.S. King recently returned to Pennsylvania after a decade in Ireland. Her short fiction has appeared in numerous journals and has been nominated for the *Best New American Voices* anthology. *The Dust of 100 Dogs* is her first young adult



novel and is available at a fine bookstore near you. Find more here: [www.thedustof100dogs.com](http://www.thedustof100dogs.com).

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"A non-traditional pirate tale with a dangerously raw, mystical edge and a unique modern twist. Deliciously fresh and starkly unforgettable" —**Lisa McMann, NYT bestselling author of *Wake***

"Exciting, fascinating, spellbinding. I'd follow Saffron into the briny deep." —**Heather Brewer, author of *The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod***

"Sparkling, original, both swashbuckling and contemporary...This gripping adventure is sure to be devoured by both teens and adults." —**Lauren Baratz-Logsted, author of *Angel's Choice***



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When Saffron is introduced, do you think she's imagining her past lives or do you take her word at face value? Why?
2. Explain your thoughts on Saffron's parents at the beginning of the novel. Did you still feel that way at the end?
3. Why do you think Junior takes drugs? Boredom? Peer pressure? Home life? Something else?
4. Why do you think Saffron's mother avoided Saffron after she'd been at Dr. Lambert's office?
5. Emer's Uncle Martin is still alive after Cromwell's razing of the valley. Emer suspects he is a traitor. Do you agree? Why?
6. Why did the arrival of Seanie Carroll change everything for Emer? Do you think one boy could change that much hardship? How?
7. Dog facts are scattered throughout the novel. Who do you think is narrating these? What do you think is the purpose of the Dog Facts?
8. Discuss Saffron's identity. Would she be able to exist without Emer's prior existence? Explain.
9. What was Emer's purpose in taking the boat to Tortuga?

10. If you had to do a character sketch of Fred Livingstone, what would it look like?

11. Did you think the prom date between Saffron and Sam was going to work out? Why or why not? Did any of their experiences at the prom remind you of your own? If yes, discuss.

12. Alfred Adams blames Junior's drug addiction on being spoiled. Why do you think he thinks that? Do you agree with him? Explain.

13. When Saffron is on her way to Jamaica, she says she decides to trust herself. What do you think she means by that? Why hadn't she trusted herself before? Have you ever felt like this? How did you get past it?

14. When do you think Emer really decides to be a pirate? Why?

15. How do Fred Livingstone and the Frenchman parallel each other? Do you think those parallels are intentional? Why do you think the author did this?

16. The quote by Robert Schumer in the front of part three is: "What great things would you attempt if you knew you could not fail?" Can you answer that for yourself?

17. Which elicited more emotion from the reader—Emer sinking the Spanish fleet or meeting up with Seanie again? Why? Which do you think made her happier?

18. Discuss what you think the dust of 100 dogs represents, beyond physical dust. Discuss also the symbolism in the novel's title.

19. Did you ever wonder if Fred's dog Rusty was a human reincarnated in a dog? Discuss.

20. Do you feel Saffron's journey was different to Emer's because of what she learned in her past lives? Discuss the major differences between the two women and their decisions.

21. Several major world religions accept reincarnation as an afterlife belief. Do you think it's possible? If no, why not? If yes, how do you think reincarnation would work?

22. About 1 in 4 women or girls in the US experiences sexual violence in her lifetime. Girls ages 16-19 are 4 times more likely [than other age groups] to be victims of rape, attempted rape, or sexual assault. What do you think can be done about this?

23. What do you think about piracy? Do you think using pirates in fiction and movies takes away the seriousness of the many modern day pirates who continue to terrorize people?

24. *The Dust of 100 Dogs* spans over 300 years. What do you feel changed in human behavior and attitudes in that time? Are there things you feel haven't changed?

25. True love, soul mates and love at first sight have appeared in literature from the start. Do you think they exist only in literature or can they occur in real life? Can you think of other stories where these themes were central? Discuss.

For More Information:

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