



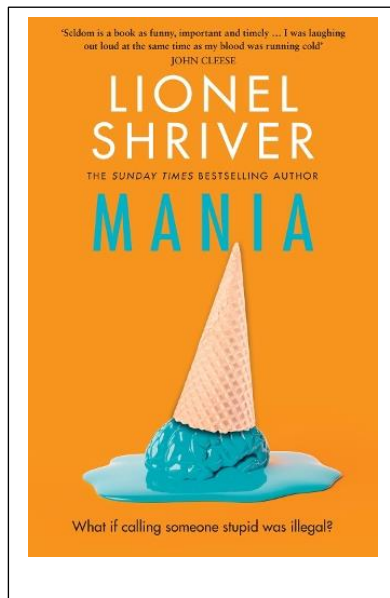
Prison Reading Groups
25 years
1999-2024

Book Talk

Mania

By Lionel Shriver

Number of pages: 288



After it becomes illegal to say people have different levels of intelligence, two friends find themselves falling out over the new world order.

Pearson is an English literature professor who disagrees with the idea that everyone is equally clever. Emory uses the new situation to boost a stalling media career.

The novel explores ideas of censorship, idealism, damaging social trends and what happens to friendships strained by politics.

We recommend this book if you enjoyed *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell or *Prophet Song* by Paul Lynch.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you think Mental Parity was a good idea?
2. How does her religious upbringing influence Pearson's reaction to the regime?
3. Do you think Emory's behaviour is sensible or cowardly?
4. Did Pearson do a good job supporting her children?
5. What other impacts do you think might come from Mental Parity?
6. The author has said the novel is based on real social trends – what do you think they might be?

Thank you to our volunteer Erin for choosing this title and creating the resource.