# And Fire Came Down by Emma Viskic

## Synopsis

Deaf since early childhood, Caleb Zelic is used to meeting life head-on. Now, he’s struggling just to get through the day. His best mate is dead, his ex-wife, Kat, is avoiding him, and nightmares haunt his waking hours.

But when a young woman is killed, after pleading for his help in sign language, Caleb is determined to find out who she was. The trail leads Caleb back to his hometown, Resurrection Bay. The town is on bushfire alert, and simmering with racial tensions.

As Caleb delves deeper, he uncovers secrets that could ruin any chance of reuniting with Kat, and even threaten his life. Driven by his own demons, he pushes on. But who is he willing to sacrifice along the way?

## Discussion questions

1. Did you learn anything new by reading And Fire Came Down? Has it changed your ideas about anything, or confirmed them?
2. Caleb is a resourceful and stubborn character; do you think his stubbornness has helped him in life, or hindered him? Is his tenacity due to his deafness, or have other factors influenced him? Do you admire it, or are you frustrated by it?
3. What are the main ideas or themes explored in And Fire Came Down? Are there any particular scenes that brought these ideas to your attention?
4. Caleb often thinks about his father, and Ant also refers to him– more than once. What do you think Ivan Zelic was like? How do you think his personality affected the brothers?
5. Caleb and Ant’s adult relationship is ‘a rickety construction built on a few honest moments and a memory of childhood closeness’. Do you think their relationship evolves throughout the novel? If so, in what way?
6. Imagery of death is present throughout the novel: pine forests are ‘living graveyards’ and a bikie has ‘tombstone teeth’. Did you notice any other examples? Why do you think the author chose to use this language?
7. Ant has a long history of drug use and petty crime, but claims to have changed. Do think he has? How do you feel about Ant? What do you think the future holds for him?
8. Heat is a constant presence in And Fire Came Down. Why do you think the author chose to set the novel in the middle of a heatwave?
9. Do you think Caleb has changed by the end of the novel? If so, in what way?

*Synopsis/Discussion questions from* [*https://emma-viskic.com/guide-for-reading-groups-resurrection/*](https://emma-viskic.com/guide-for-reading-groups-resurrection/)