

BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *BEFORE THE FALL*

NOAH HAWLEY

"A PAGE-TURNER."

—NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

ANTHEM

A NOVEL

"A BLISTERING THRILLER."

—ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

BOOK CLUB KIT

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. “Book 1: Slow Violence” begins, “The summer our children began to kill themselves was the hottest in history.” Those who have died by suicide all leave behind the same message, All. Why do you think the author decided to open the novel this way? Did you have any initial theories as to the origins of the suicide epidemic as you began reading, and did they or did they not prove to be true?
2. Discuss the ways the Prophet views the world in relation to Ty Oliver. What other characters have similar views to the Prophet? What other characters have similar views to Ty Oliver? Whose point of view in the novel most closely mirrors your own?
3. Discuss the role anxiety plays in *Anthem*. What does Hawley’s novel seem to suggest about the things that worry us, what we can control, and what is out of our control? Do you think we’re living in a more anxious time than in previous decades? Why or why not?
4. “The last Hawaiian tree snail died in 2019. Don’t be Evil. Farewell to the giant Yangtze soft-shell turtle. They’re Grrrreat!” These phrases, slogans, and facts about the world are woven through *Anthem*, as authorial asides, anecdotes from the Prophet, and within scenes. Why do you think the author made this stylistic choice? What effect did they have on your reading experience? How do you interpret these facts from the near future Hawley has created in the context of the plot?
5. In the beginning of “Book 3: Half Earth”, Hawley writes an apology to the readers for what has happened in the story so far. What are some of the key moments you think the authorial voice is referencing? What did you think of the story of to this point, and did you have predictions about how the novel would play out from that point forward?
6. How does this book help you to better understand your role in society? How does it make you think differently about people with differing views and opinions?
7. What part of *Anthem* did you find the most surprising? The most affecting? Explain why.
8. What other novels, TV shows, or movies do you feel share a kinship with *Anthem*? Where in the literary canon does Hawley’s novel fall, in your estimation?
9. What was your favorite part of *Anthem*? Explain why.
10. What conclusions can you make about the nature of our society as Hawley describes it? The nature of the battle between good and evil? What do you make of the end of the novel? What does it suggest about the state of the world and humanity’s future?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Award-winning author Noah Hawley is one of the most accomplished auteurs and versatile storytellers working in television, film and literature. Over the course of his more than 20-year career, Hawley's work as a novelist, screenwriter, series creator, showrunner and director has garnered acclaim—winning an Emmy®, Golden Globe®, PEN, Critics' Choice, and Peabody Award. As a bestselling author, Hawley has published six novels: *A Conspiracy of Tall Men*, *Other People's Weddings*, *The Punch*, *The Good Father*, and *Before the Fall*.



Author: Noah Hawley
Credit: Carolyn Fong

