**Book Club Questions on *If It Bleeds* by Stephen King**

1. In “Mr. Harrigan’s Phone” is Craig responsible in any way for what happens to Kenny Yanko and/or Dean Whitmore? (Can be one or both.)
2. If you could say anything to someone who had passed as Craig seems to be able to do with Mr. Harrigan, who would you call and what would you say?
3. Does the idea of a world inside your head, as in “The Life of Chuck”, which dies when you die, scare you? Make sense to you?
4. Would you want to know how and when you or someone you loved was going to die? What would you do with the knowledge?
5. “The Life of Chuck” semi follows a backward arc, with the end of the story being the beginning as it were. Do you like stories like that? Why or why not? Did it take you time to figure out what was going on due to the way the story unfolded?
6. The idea of an Outsider, someone who takes on the persona of humans to feed from tragic events, is that a comforting one because it means these events are not caused by humans or a disconcerting one because we are not alone? Explain your choice.
7. Holly Gibney has been a recurring character in the Mr. Mercedes trilogy, in *The Outsider*, and now in *If it Bleeds* in the novella, “If It Bleeds.” “In King's words:, "[Holly Gibney] was supposed to be a walk-on character and she just kind of stole the book and stole my heart" (King, J., 2022). What is it about Holly do you think stole King’s heart? Do you like Holly, why or why not?
8. Does Holly’s mother really believe that Holly will come back and be the same daughter she had been before after all the changes that Holly has gone through? Why or why not?
9. If someone offered you a deal, you get what you wished for but someone close to you would die as the rat does in “The Rat”, explain why you would or would not take the offer?
10. Did the rat cheat Drew? Or was it never a deal that it would only be Al to begin with?

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