

Discussion Questions: *Mona Acts Out*

Folger Book Club—November 2026

1. What did you think of this novel? If asked, what would you say this book is about?

2. Rachel gets a line of Shakespeare tattooed on her arm. Is there a line from Shakespeare or another source that has such significance for you?

3. How familiar were you with the roles Mona references from her career, especially Cleopatra? How much does it matter?

4. Milton spends his time drinking scotch and watching old recordings of his productions even though he feels "You couldn't film theater . . theater was a creation in the moment . . the product that ensued was everything but what really mastered." (pg 75). Do you agree or disagree? Is filming theater valuable?

5. Mona is infuriated by feeling that Milton's behavior was clearly signalled as "the terms of the deal." (pg 104) Why does she never seem to question if those terms should be changed?

6. Mona warns Vanessa away from "Party Tom" on page 118, but then defends the hazing practice of making new members of the company kiss everyone. Where does Mona draw the line for what is/isn't appropriate?

7. Do you find the generational differences well balanced? How would this story have been different with Rachel or Vanessa as narrator?

8. Do you like Mona? Are you supposed to? If not, who *are* you supposed to like?

9. Is any character in this book happy? Why or why not? How would they define happiness?

10. If you could see any production described in this book, which one would it be?