Book Title: The Aftermath
by Rhidian Brook

Rhidian Brook (born 1964) is a novelist, screenwriter and broadcaster.

His first novel, The Testimony Of Taliesin Jones (Harper Collins) won three prizes, including the 1997 Somerset Maugham Award, and was made into a film starring Jonathan Pryce. His second novel, Jesus And The Adman (Harper Collins) was published in 1999. His third novel, The Aftermath, was published in April 2013 by Penguin UK, Knopf US and a further 18 publishers around the world. His short stories have been published by The Paris Review, Punch, The New Statesman, Time Out and others; and several were broadcast on BBC Radio 4’s Short Story.

His first commission for television - Mr Harvey Lights A Candle - was broadcast in 2005 on BBC1 and starred Timothy Spall. He wrote for the BBC series Silent Witness between 2005-7, and the factual drama Atlantis for BBC1 in 2008. Africa United, his first feature film (Pathe), went on general release in the UK in October 2010. He is adapting The Aftermath as a feature for Scott Free and BBC Film.

He has written articles for papers, including The Observer, The Guardian and The Daily Telegraph. In 2005, he presented Nailing The Cross, a...
documentary for BBC1. In 2006 he broadcast a series In The Blood for BBC World Service, recording his family’s journey through the AIDS pandemic. His book about that journey - More Than Eyes Can See - was published by Marion Boyars in 2007.

He has been a regular contributor to Radio 4’s "Thought For The Day" for more than twelve years.

He lives with his wife and two children in London. They have two children, Spencer and Paige.
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_Hamburg, 1946. Thousands remain displaced in what is now the British Occupied Zone. Charged with overseeing the rebuilding of this devastated city and the de-Nazification of its defeated people, Colonel Lewis Morgan is requisitioned a fine house on the banks of the Elbe, where he will be joined by his grieving wife, Rachael, and only remaining son, Edmund._

_But rather than force its owners, a German widower and his traumatized daughter, to leave their home, Lewis insists that the two families live together. In this charged and claustrophobic atmosphere all must confront their true selves as enmity and grief give way to passion and betrayal._

_The Aftermath is a stunning novel about our fiercest loyalties, our deepest desires and the transformative power of forgiveness._
Book Club Discussion Guide

Book Title: *The Aftermath*
by Rhidian Brook

1. Toss one question at a time out to the group. Use our LitLovers Resources below to help you with specific questions.

2. Select a number of questions, write each on an index card, and pass them out. Each member (or team of 2 or 3) takes a card and answers the question.

3. Use a prompt (prop) related to the story. It can help stimulate members' thinking about some aspect of the story. It's adult show & tell.

*(Think maps, photographs, paintings, food, apparel, a music recording, a film sequence.)*

4. Pick out a specific passage from the book—a description, an idea, a line of dialogue—and ask members to comment on it.

*(Consider how a passage reflects a character...or the work's central meaning...or members' lives or personal beliefs.)*

5. Choose a primary character and ask members to comment on him or her.

*(Think character traits, motivations, how he/she affects the story's events and characters, or revealing quotations.)*

6. Play a literary game. Use one of our Icebreaker Games. They're smart and fun—guaranteed to loosen you up and get your discussion off to a lively, even uproarious start.
7. Distribute hand-outs to everyone in order to refresh memories or to use as talking points. Identify the primary characters and summarize the plot.
Book title: The Aftermath by Rhidian Brook

"Rhidian Brook’s arresting novel brings vividly to life a little-told aspect of World War II.” —Claire Messud

"Superb. . . . Conjures surprise after surprise as it shows how the forces of politics and history penetrate even the most intimate moments of its characters’ emotional lives." —The Guardian (London)


"A captivating tale of love among the ruins but also of treachery and vengeance. . . . It poses many complex questions." —Literary Review

"Reading The Aftermath, one can't help but wonder if this is the sort of literary memorialization . . . that Sebald might have wished for." —The Washington Post