

GOOP BOOK CLUB

A Reading Guide for *Open Water* by Caleb Azumah Nelson

Sure, you might get made fun of if you underline your books. But we like being able to look back at the passages, scenes, words, quotes, and turns in a story that affected us. And we like being able to talk about them with you. Let us know what you think in our book club [Facebook group](#).

1. Page 2: “Ask: if *flexing* is being able to say the most in the fewest number of words, is there a greater flex than love? Nowhere to hide, nowhere to go. A direct gaze.”
2. Page 25: “What to play? What says you’re not overthinking this? Probably not having that thought, but it is too late now.”
3. Page 47: “As you run off the platform and into the street, weaving towards your taxi, you experience a strange moment in which you are flung into the future, wondering how you will remember this. You would like a witness. You would like someone to stop you and ask, *What are you doing?*, to which you would reply, *I’m doing what I feel.*”
4. Page 53: “The trouble is, this is trouble that you welcome. You realize there is a reason clichés exist, and you would happily have your breath taken away, three seconds at a time, maybe more, by this woman.”
5. Page 56: ““You look like you got hit by a bus, and you dusted yourself off, and did it again for the hell of it. You look like you’re wondering when the next time you can get hit by that bus is.””
6. Page 89: “The songs are full of nostalgia, which is to say they are full of mourning; one remembers that which came before, often with a fond sadness, a want to return, despite knowing to return to a memory is to morph it, to warp it.”
7. Page 91: “You wonder how long this moment could stretch for, and how much it could contain: you, her, the soft rush of cars speeding in the darkness, the gaze, seeing each other here, her heartbeat near audible, before she says, ‘I love you, you know?’”
8. page 92: “You while away the evening together, doing nothing really, which is something, is an intimacy in itself.”

9. Page 119: "Faith is turning off the light and trusting the other person will not murder you in your sleep. This is basic, audacious."
10. Page 146: "Multiple truths do exist, and you do not have to be the sum of your traumas."