

QUESTIONS ABOUT
EXIT WEST
Part 2

A *Doctors without Borders* flyer declares, “There are now 79.5 million forcibly displaced people around the world – more than at any time in modern history.” *Exit West* is about such displaced people and the doors they pass through to arrive wherever they must go.

The questions run from the beginning of Chapter 7 on page 121 to the end of the book.

Chapter Seven

1. Describe Saeed and Nadia’s new surroundings. What city are they in?
2. On page 127 is described “a couple that made out of opportunities for joy, misery.” What has caused this misery? How often do people turn joy into misery?
3. What happens when the police try to expel them from the building?
4. How does their stay in this mansion affect their relationship? How does their relationship change when Nadia plays Saeed’s favorite music?

Chapter Eight

6. When power is lost in Saeed’s home country, it is lost everywhere. What happens when power is lost in London?
7. Where do most of those living in Saeed’s house come from? Is Nadia comfortable with them? Is Saeed?
8. Describe the interaction between Saeed and the “fast-talking Nigerian woman...with a leather jacket and a chipped tooth.”
9. Why does Saeed want to move? What does Nadia think of this desire?

10. On page 158 it states, “The news in those days was full of war and migrants and nativists, and it was full of fracturing too, of regions pulling away from hinterlands, and it seemed that as everyone was coming together everyone was also moving apart.” How does this affect Nadia? Does this describe our own world today?
11. What happens at the Tijuana orphanage? Why is this story included in the book?
12. What happens when the army removes migrants? What do Saeed and Nadia do?
14. What are some reasons the British government might have pulled the troops back?

Chapter Nine

15. Describe Saeed and Nadia’s worker camp. What is a time tax?
16. What happens to Saeed and Nadia’s relationship after his father dies?
17. The author tells of an elderly man from Holland and another from Brazil who meet via one of these mysterious black doors and become lovers. What does this have to do with the larger novel? Why do you think it is included?
18. What does Saeed’s work crew do? Describe the foreman.
19. What does Nadia’s work crew do? Describe the digging machine driver and his wife.
20. What is happening to Saeed and Nadia’s relationship? What do they decide to do?

Chapter Ten

21. Describe the home they build on a Marin hillside.

22. Describe the three groups of people in Marin. What are their differences?
23. What native person does Saeed avoid? Why?
25. Describe how the couple is growing apart.
26. The author describes the life of an old Palo Alto woman and ends with the comment, "We are all migrants through time." What does he mean?

Chapter Eleven

27. Who leaves first when they finally separate?
28. Nadia's new room feels to her like "a door was opening up, a door in this case like a room." How is this "door" different from the dark, black doors described earlier? How is it the same? Do our own lives have such doors?
29. Describe the woman who becomes Nadia's lover and the woman who becomes Saeed's lover.
30. Saeed and Nadia gradually cease communicating. Is this usual when friends part?
31. The author describes a mute woman who stays home and her daughter who leaves. Why do you believe the author includes this story?

Chapter Twelve

32. Saeed and Nadia meet fifty years later. What has changed and what is the same?