



An Inconvenient Elephant

By Judy Reene Singer
ISBN: 9780061713774

Questions for Discussion

1. Diamond-Rose seems to solve problems by creating new ones. She gets herself and Neelie somewhat stranded in Zimbabwe. How effective are her strategies? How many times throughout the book does she problem solve like this?
2. Neelie feels restless and unsettled after her year at the elephant rescue in Kenya. Is it just because she has been away or has she really come unglued? What was it about Victoria Falls that affected her so much?
3. Neelie's mother seems appalled when she meets Diamond-Rose, but Diamond is quite taken with her. What is Diamond really looking for in her life? Does she find it? With whom?
4. Is Neelie right about rescuing Tusker no matter the consequences, or is she being insensitive to the culture and problems in the country where he lives?
5. Diamond-Rose frequently makes veiled references to the fact that the jungle "takes" things from her. What does she really mean? Has the jungle taken "domestication" from her?
6. Tom keeps a secret about the New York sanctuary from Neelie. Could he have handled it better? How do you think she would have reacted? Does she ever really listen?
7. Neelie's conversation with Grisha seems to settle something within herself. Do you think his definition of a "wild heart" fits her as well?
8. Did you expect the ending as it was written? Did you expect Neelie to leave for the jungle again?