

## Discussion Questions *All for One – Love, War, & Ghosts*

### From the book:

1. Can you understand or forgive Henry's secret? Do you have any empathy for "the bad man"? What are the implications in real life?
2. Everyone assumes Henry is being paranoid and/or his PTSD is returning. Do we make that kind of assumption whenever someone has a diagnosis?
3. Rob was the leader with "all for one" - then he did not stick with them. He says he became a medic to save lives. Did he betray the friendship? Was guilt part of the reason for his post-service choices?
4. Mrs. Hillman mentions growing up in WWII Europe. What impact do you think that had on her understanding of her Davey going to war, going AWOL, coming back so changed? Do you think she's had contact with her Davey before this?
5. Consider the opening scenes in 2022. How would you describe Cathy's feelings toward her husband? Does she love him? Has she loved Rob all along?
6. Janet wanted a life of adventure, but came home to take care of her parents when they were disabled. Are you happy for her at the end?
7. Who did kill Henry?

### Some additional considerations:

Per the National Institute of Mental Health: "Though the brain may be done growing in size, it does not finish developing and maturing until the mid- to late 20s. The front part of the brain, called the prefrontal cortex, is one of the last brain regions to mature. This area is responsible for skills like planning, prioritizing, and controlling impulses." Obviously, some people manage to make plans, prioritize, and control impulses before their late 20s. However, when put into high-stress, high-risk situations, that's going to be more difficult. Youth may also increase the risk of post-combat PTSD, though the research is not clear.

What are the implications for military enlistment/draft/service?

Read the [July 15, 2025 newsletter](#) for the original opening to this story. Critique groups said they didn't care about him enough to start here. What do you think?

My [newsletter](#) caters to readers and writers: [sherimcguinn.substack.com](http://sherimcguinn.substack.com)

Review links for *All for One: Love, War, & Ghosts*:

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Every review helps – thank you. *Thanks for reading!*