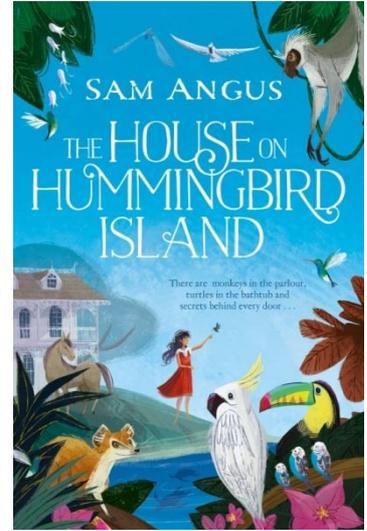
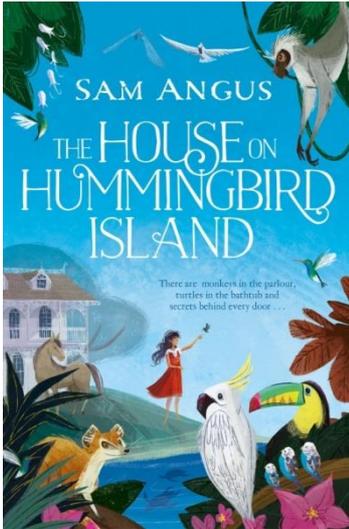


The House on Hummingbird Island by Sam Angus – Discussion Notes

1. **'Hummingbird Island was shimmering and strange as a fairy tale.'** Discuss the emotions that surround Idie's arrival at Hummingbird Island. Does it seem like a welcoming place?
2. **'I think Grancat thought sending you away was giving you your best chance in life, people and society being what they are.'** Was Grancat right to send Idie away? Do you think he ever regretted his decision?
3. **'Dear Myles, My sun is not the same as your sun. Yours is just a faded copy of mine.'** Myles and Idie swap letters throughout the novel. How important do you think this connection is for both the characters? How much does it help you to understand the differences between their lives?
4. To what extent does Idie build a family when she reaches Bathsheba? Do Mayella and the other servants at Bathsheba House become a surrogate family for Idie? How well does she fit in with them?
5. **'Celia had cunning in her and duplicity.'** How much awareness does Celia have of what is going on around her? Is she ultimately a friend or foe to Idie?
6. **'I've no ambition to grow up. . . I've done quite enough of it already and I find the benefits of it debatable.'** Does Idie have too much growing up to do in this novel?
7. **'Even if you have monkeys and parakeets and turtles it can be lonely.'** Discuss the role of Idie and Celia's animal companions. To what extent can pets help with loneliness?
8. Which of the animals in the book do you think you would choose to keep you company if you lived in Bathsheba? Are there any other animals which you wish Idie had managed to have come and live with her?
9. **'The English don't give guns to the black men, only to the white man, and the black man he does only the digging and the carrying.'** To what extent was the First World War a 'white man's war'? How were people from the West Indies perceived by the British, and vice versa?
10. Discuss how the experience of war changes Benedict. Were you surprised that he gave the order about Sampson?
11. What do Idie's experiences in the military hospital teach us about the consequences of war?
12. **'That would never happen if women ruled the world. Women don't wage wars and they never forget about blankets.'** What does this book show us about the role of women in the First World War? Do you agree with Idie's theory here?





About the Book

There are monkeys in the chandeliers, turtles in the bathtub and secrets behind every door . . .

Idie Grace is twelve when she inherits a grand old house on a Caribbean island and is sent away from grey old England to a place where hummingbirds hover and monkeys clamber from tree to tree.

As a lady of property Idie can do as she pleases, so she fills the house with exotic animals, keeps her beloved horse in the hall and carries a grumpy talking cockatoo called Homer on her shoulder. But the island home holds as many secrets as it does animals, and the truth behind Idie's inheritance is the biggest secret of all . . .

Perfect for fans of Eva Ibbotson and Katherine Rundell

About the Author

Sam Angus was born in Italy and grew up in France and in Spain during the final years of General Franco's dictatorship. She studied Literature at Trinity College, Cambridge, and taught A-level English before setting up one of the most successful fashion brands of the 1990s, Sam De Teran, worn by VIPs and socialites and mentioned in the same breath as Anya Hindmarch and Kelly Hoppen.

After having her first child, Sam returned to her first love, literature. She now writes full-time and lives between Exmoor and London with an improvident quantity of children, horses and dogs. Sam's peripatetic childhood inspired a love of travelling and of history which continue to be the key themes in her outstanding novels.



Soldier Dog, her debut novel about the Messenger Dog Service, was published in 2012 to great acclaim and won the North East Book Award. It was shortlisted for the Heart of Hawick Children's Book Award, the Warwickshire Teen Book Award and the Worcestershire Teen Book Award and longlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Medal, the Redbridge Award and the Branford Boase Award.

Find out more about *The House on Hummingbird Island* by Sam Angus at www.panmacmillan.com/hummingbird