

Illegal Discussion Questions:

1. Did Tania always choose the best options available to her? What might she have done differently?
2. It remains unclear why Tania is so terrified to return to Russia. Why do you think the filmmakers made this choice? How does giving her an open past make her character more universal?
3. How were the employees of the holding center portrayed? How much sympathy did you have for them? To what extent were they Tania's antagonists, as opposed to the institution itself?
4. In an interview, director Olivier Masset-Depasse stated that he chose to make a fictional film about this subject matter rather than a documentary. Would a documentary have affected you in a different way? What are some of the advantages of exploring political issues through fiction?
5. ILLEGAL's cinematography is very simple. What are some of the ways that this stylistic choice can strengthen the drama onscreen?
6. According to Masset-Depasse, Belgian holding centers are designed to dissuade their inhabitants from wanting to return to the country illegally. What are the drawbacks to this design? What are the advantages?