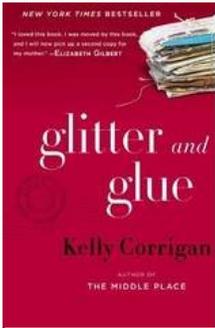




# Discussion Guide



## About the Book

Book Title: *Glitter and Glue*

Author: Kelly Corrigan

Published by: New York: Ballantine Books, 2014

Author Website: <http://www.kellycorrigan.com/>

## Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. This book is a memoir about the author's post college trip. Did you go on any adventures in early adulthood? If so, what was your experience and how did it compare and contrast to Corrigan's?
3. An important part of the book involved the author's relationship with her mother. How did that relationship evolve in the book? Did you experience anything similar with your mother or father? Explain
4. A underlying theme in the book was the cancer of the mother in the home where Corrigan served as nanny, and also Corrigan's own cancer. How did you find her treatment of this illness. Can you compare that to any experiences you or others have had with cancer? Would you recommend this book to people dealing with cancer? Why or why not?
5. What does this book teach you about life in Australia?
6. Corrigan grapples with parenthood in this memoir as she becomes a nanny to children who have lost their mother. What did you think of her experiences and what she learned? In what ways did they resonate with you?
7. Read over the MAMs comments on the book. Which of them do you most agree with and why?
8. In what ways, if any, will this book change your life or perspective?

*Other Link...*

*Thoughts on Parenthood and the Great Adventure by Kelly Corrigan on YouTube;;*

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYmQs8bs1cY>*



**NANCY:** I enjoyed this book! Especially, as a mother, I appreciated this story. I wish I still had my mother, so we could discuss this together. The way she explained her changing perspective from daughter, to explorer, then nanny and then finally as a mother herself provided a very creatively written saga in which she comes full circle. This book illustrated that familiar cliché -- we don't appreciate our parents until we become parents ourselves. She artfully wove the threads of dealing with loss, both real and imagined. I would like to read another book by this author.



**SALLIE:** Well! I loved Kelly's sensitivity to the children and how kindly she portrayed them in this book. She told the story so well and I found myself not only impressed with her writing, but also her own work of loving these children through their pain. She tried desperately to help them in the healing process, a quite selfless journey of accompaniment for one going off to find herself. And in the end, the parenting is what she really names as the Great Adventure. A nice twist, don't you think?



**ABIGAIL:** I noticed the religious overtones in this book. Kelly's mom was the religious one, devout Catholic. Kelly seemed to doubt her devotion, and yet came to respects it as time unfolded. Although Kelly may not follow closely to her mother's devotion to the church, what struck me was the love communicated from mother to daughter that I believe gave her the wisdom and spiritual strength to love the Aussie children through their suffering.



**MOLLY:** I loved the various themes of the book and how they wrapped though the story. As a writer, I can appreciate her treatment of adventure, cancer, mothering and coming of age. Her big adventure to live the fun life in Australia turned out to be an adventure in mothering, and in the end that was the biggest adventure of all. She experienced the pain of the Tanner's family loss from cancer, and then her own brushes with it. She faulted her mother until she became a nanny, then began to understand the challenges which extended into her own mothering and eventually into a deep appreciation of own mother. And her story also involved her coming of age, preparing her to return and become a mother herself.



**PRISCILLA:** My heart went out to the children's father, John, and to those poor children. Where was the church in their lives when he lost his wife and the children lost their mother? In some ways, Kelli was God to them, don't you think?



**KATHARINE:** This book reminded me so much of the college students I teach. They rave and protest against the ways of their parents. They seek adventure. They want to shed the confines of their youth. And yet, often times through the adventure they discover the value of their roots. I wouldn't have my students read this in a religion class, but certainly in a literature class exploring the genre of memoir, it would be right on.



**JANE:** I love her gutsy adventure of going to Australia with a friend to live it up and taking a year to travel! Wish I had been so brave in my youth. Maybe we should do it now, ladies?