



NANCY: This book grows on you. On the surface, it seems like a dysfunctional family of unhappy people on the trip of a life time which they can't really enjoy because of the pain in their lives and the brokenness in their relationships with one another. However, when you look deeper you see problems that plague so many in our society. Alcoholism, suicide, broken dreams, focusing on appearances rather than substance, and dysfunctional religion, too. That there are resolutions in the end, gives the reader hope. The path through calls us to love.



KATHARINE: Hmm... What to say about this one. Maybe a psychology class could read it to look at the seeds of self-loathing. Comparing Cord and Giovanni: What happens when a gay man is loved and accepted vs. not allowed to be himself? Issues of alcoholism and suicide and how they affect the family system?



PRISCILLA: These people weren't very nice were they? Now Charlotte was a good Catholic, but she seemed to care more about the priest than loving her son. But I understand the church's teachings didn't approve of Cord. So she was in a bind. A lonely woman, dependent on her priest's visits. Glad she came around.



JANE: Well, how the rich live, the Jetsetters, not all that it's cracked up to be? Right? Regan is my hero in this story. She realized that she left her dream behind in that marriage and now I see her determined to go back to her original love or art. That she masterminded her husband's affair? Well, I'm not sure, but glad she felt liberated and I want to say, "You Go Girl!"



MOLLY: Really? This book was crazy to me. Unhappy people, just going through the emotions. It showed me the emptiness of some families. You know James Baldwin wrote about the bankruptcy of the white culture. I think this family illustrates what he was talking about. But when they finally admitted their weaknesses, they were able to love. Reparations, what is needed y'all!



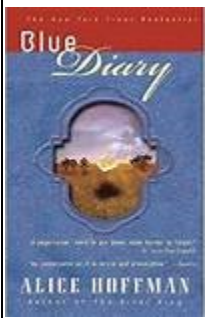
ABIGAIL: What I wonder is why Reese Witherspoon chose this book for her Hello Sunshine Book Club. The book had a real edge for me and I didn't enjoy the outlandish vacation in the midst of so much pain. I found it hard to get into exploring the world while dealing with the fallout of their family history.



SALLIE: I agree with Katharine. This is a good book to consider how alcoholism wreaks havoc on the children. All three of them carried their wounds into adulthood and were still dealing with the fallout of their father who killed himself. It also helps us ask the question, what is needed for healing? I liked that they came together in the end and started to move forward.



Discussion Guide



About the Book

Title: The Jetsetters

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Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. How do you define “Jetsetter”? Were these characters Jetsetters? Why or why not?
3. Which of the characters did you most identify with in this book and why?
4. What were the dreams of Charlotte, Lee, Cord and Regan? What kept them from living their dreams? Did their “dreams come true” in the end?
5. Have you had a dream for your life? Have you lived your dream? If so, explain. If not what keeps you from living your dream? Is it too late?
6. The disease of alcoholism affects the characters in this book. How did it affect Winston, Charlotte, Lee, Cord, Regan? How were their situations resolved?
7. Have you dealt with alcoholism in your family life? Were your experiences similar? Why or why not?
8. The suicide of Winston affected them all. How did they deal with that? How do you recommend dealing with suicide and threats to suicide?
9. Read over the MAMs comments on the book. Which of them do you most agree with and why?
9. In what ways, if any, will this book change your life or perspective?

On YouTube: Interview with Amanda Eyre Ward, THE JETSETTERS (23:03)

Bookreporter Talks To: Amanda Eyre Ward (46:44)