

Moon Over Madeline Island

By
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Thoughts & Questions for Discussion

- In the very beginning of my story, you learn that Eve's true purpose in life (besides doing great hair) is to help her clients help themselves. What do you do in your life to make you feel complete?
- Ruby wills her cottage to Eve—but only after she dies and trust me, it's going to be a LONG time. Has anyone ever stepped forward and helped you with *your* dream? Could you possibly do this for someone around you?
- After going to the cottage on Madeline Island for the first time, Eve mentions how she feels *different*, that her salon now feels small. Have you ever felt this? Have you made a decision and suddenly everything around you feels 'too small'?
- This novel is about 'taking the plunge.' About having the courage to know that even though your life may be 'comfortable,' sometimes we need to do the *un-safe* thing in order to blossom. Do you have someone in your life that's helped you find your next direction? Have you helped someone 'take the plunge'?
- Many times, Eve mentions how memories are tied to 'things.' She unpacks a lamp and recalls her dad. Is there stuff in your life that's infused with memories? Are there things you've gleefully tossed in the bonfire?
- Eve shares with Ruby how there doesn't seem to be enough room in her life for a 'relationship.' How do you feel about this? Do you find that you're hoping that she'll meet someone? Where do these feelings come from? Society has issue with women being happily single, but men are seen as simply being a bachelor.
- Ruby mentions how sometimes you should try and 'surrender' to life. Eve wants to give it a good shove. How do *you* approach life?
- Bonnie's husband, Al, is a real jerk. So I kill him off, why not? Afterwards, the sewing crew all head over to Bonnie's in order to help her. What did you think/feel of the trophy-symbolism?

- The apron plays an interesting role in my novel. “Tied like apron strings to a societal expectation of how to be.” It was once a symbol of domestication and oppression but now it’s a cash-cow! What other symbols have changed over time? Eve encounters the confederate flag being sold in a booth next to theirs and pitches a fit. What is your reaction to that ‘symbol?’
- Out on the dock, Ruby hands Eve an old letter with some pretty significant information concerning Eve’s search for her daughter. Has a letter ever turned your life upside down? Have you ever written one that ultimately changed someone’s life?