



Go with Me

By Castle Freeman, Jr.
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Introduction

Go With Me is a darkly funny New England gothic tale set in the cold and foreboding hill country of the Vermont woods, where young Lillian refuses to back down in the face of potentially deadly threats from a local villain, who has already killed her cat and has been pursuing her around town. In her continued offensive against her tormentor, Lillian finds two unlikely allies in the young, bullheaded Nate and the older, crafty Lester. As these three band together and the chase continues, a Greek chorus of hilariously reminiscent Vermont neighbors narrate the back story and provide entertaining, witty, and intoxicated commentary on their community and the provocative intersection of youth and aged experience. An insightful look at what it means to pursue one's destiny as opposed to passively accepting fate, *Go With Me* is a timeless and gripping tale of bold determination.

Questions for Discussion

1. Who do you think is the hero of *Go With Me*? Why? How do you know?
2. As you read the book, do you think justice is done to the villain? Aren't the good guys just as bad—just as much outlaws—as the bad guys? If not, how are they better? If so, how important is that to your response to the story?
3. How important to you as a reader is the setting of the book? Could the story have taken place anywhere, or is its rural New England provenance essential? Do you get a clear sense of the setting? Do you find it's described realistically? Is it someplace you can imagine yourself living? If so, would you like it?
4. The book has two concurrent story lines: the pursuit of Blackway, and the commentary by the men at the mill. Which do you think is most important? Why? Which did you like better? Why?
5. Some readers have observed that the characters in *Go With Me* are stereotypes. Are they, or are the characters believable and realistic? Do you know or can you imagine knowing people like these? Does the author attempt to make them believable and realistic? Some of them? All of them?
6. Similar question about the action of the book. Some of it is violent. What's your reaction to the mayhem in *Go With Me*? Is it excessive? Is it meant to be graphic and frightening, or is it more in the nature of cartoon violence? Is it the violence of Sam Peckinpah, or of John Ford?
7. How much humor do you find in the book? What in it is funny? Why or how is it funny?

About the Author

Castle Freeman, Jr. is the award-winning author of two previous novels, a story collection, and a collection of essays. A regular contributor to *The Old Farmer's Almanac* since 1982, he lives in Newfane, Vermont, with his wife, Alice.