



Leaving Everything Most Loved

By Jacqueline Winspear
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Questions for Discussion

1. The two victims in *Leaving Everything Most Loved* are Indian women. What roles do their nationality and their gender play in the crime and in the investigation?
2. When the novel opens, we discover that Maisie feels restless and troubled. What is behind these feelings? How does this uneasiness color her investigation? Why do you think Maisie is so unsettled by Usha Pramal's death, and by that of her friend, Maya Patel?
3. How has the death of her friend, mentor, and benefactor, Maurice, Blanche, affected Maisie emotionally? How has the inheritance she received changed her life?
4. Maisie is often told that she thinks too much. What are people implying when they tell her this? Do you think it is possible to think too much?
5. When she visits Maurice's friend, Khan, he quotes the poet Rumi: "Pilgrimage to the place of the wise is to find escape from the flame of separateness." How do you interpret this line?
6. Maisie knows she is not leaving a place or people she dislikes but is leaving everything she loves most. What will she lose by leaving? What might she gain?
7. Maisie's relationship with James Compton is complicated, their living arrangements unorthodox. How is Maisie both of her time and different from it? Do you think she should marry James? What holds her back?
8. Maisie is not the only one "*Leaving Everything Most Loved*." Which other characters' lives are changing as well?
9. If you've read the previous novels featuring Maisie Dobbs, do you have a favorite case she investigated? How do the previous novels compare to *Leaving Everything Most Loved*?
10. What do you think lies ahead for Maisie? Will she return to detective work? What choices would you like to see her make?