

# Come with Me

Harper

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1. As the novel begins, Amy admits to being “at a point” in her life, between the old impulse to want “to eat the world,” and a later one to not “want to feel any of it.” What is the nature of this point she is at? What particular elements of her life have brought her to it?
2. What are the various technologies at use throughout the novel? What does each allow, make easier, or prevent? What, if anything, is lost by the use of each?
3. What is Dan struggling with in his life? Why is he so pulled toward “wildness and weightiness”?
4. Consider the relationship between Jack and Lily. What are the benefits of such cyber-interaction? In what ways are these intimacies similar to or different from those resulting from physical proximity? To what extent and in what ways can love be cultivated online?
5. Why would tech industry parents like Naresh and Nancy want to put their children in a school that is “vehemently anti-tech? What’s essential to child development and education that modern technology might threaten?
6. What are Donny’s strengths and weaknesses as he pursues his tech breakthrough? Does it matter that the developers of such powerful technologies are often very young adults? What role, if any, should empathy play in developing such a technology?
7. To what extent should ethics be part of the development of AI and other similar technologies? What form might such evaluation take?
8. Why is running valuable to Amy? Of what importance is the actual—as opposed to virtual—world for her?
9. What are the costs and benefits of screen time? How much is too much? In what ways might this change as humans and technologies evolve?
10. What might Jack mean when he says, “life online should be like life in life”?
11. Amy refers to her willingness to move for the sake of her husband and other concessions she regrets as “girl” decisions. What does she mean? Why might such an intelligent and independent woman like Amy have made such decisions?

12. Consider the many literary allusions throughout the novel: Rilke, Neruda, Keats, Dickenson, Thoreau, etc. What does each add to the novel? How might the further development of virtual reality change the experience of literature?
13. What particular qualities are valuable to Maryam as a journalist? What about her does Dan so powerfully admire and desire? What does she mean that she has often felt “invisible”?
14. How is it that the disaster and continuous threat of the Fukushima nuclear meltdown can fade from cultural consciousness? What are the best ways for journalists like Maryam and Dan to perpetuate the necessary social concern and attention?
15. What are the potential benefits or dangers of Donny’s idea, to create a way to experience the multiverse of one’s life?
16. What might explain Kevin’s tragic decision? In what way did he “need help”? What should be done to further address the prevalence of suicide among the young in Palo Alto?
17. What does Yoshi value? What does it mean that “he sees the unnoticed and concealed. What others want obliterated”?
18. In what way were Amy and her older brother Eric “psychic twins”? How does his random, senseless death affect her throughout her life?
19. When distraught because of Jack’s suffering, Dan tells Maryam she can’t know what he’s feeling. She angrily claims the existence of the “divinely human and universal qualities of compassion, sympathy; the ability to empathize.” To what extent can one person feel what another is feeling? What are the implications of the limits of empathy? How might AI and virtual reality technologies change this?
20. Why does Dan decide to not pursue his relationship with Maryam and instead return to his family? Why does Amy, despite her anger and pain, accept and agree to this decision?