

HOME MAKING

by LEE MATALONE

Reading Group Guide

USE THESE QUESTIONS TO GUIDE YOUR BOOK CLUB'S DISCUSSION

1. Chloe spends much of the novel in her own head, even going so far as to imagine whole conversations. What do you think these dialogues tell us about her?
2. Beau thinks of him and Chloe as “Bonnie and Clyde,” as “troublemakers, outlaws.” What do you think he means by this? How would you describe their relationship?
3. Discuss the role of secrets in the narrative and how they affect these characters? Do you think any of these secrets are more justified than others?
4. Many chapters are named after the rooms in Chloe’s new house and we see quite a bit of architecture and design theory. Which of these spaces seem most meaningful to her, and why?
5. The novel opens and closes with chapters that move swiftly through time and place. How can you account for this stylistic difference? What do these shifts in perspective signify?
6. Cybil is adopted from Japan and raised in Arizona. How do you think her upbringing informs the way she interacts with Chloe? Do you think their mother/daughter relationship changes over the course of the novel? Why or why not?
7. Beau maintains a deeply intimate friendship with Chloe and yet he keeps his romantic life at a considerable distance. Do you think he has a future with Tyler? How do you think technology has impacted modern love?
8. Discuss the last scene between Chloe and Pat. What do you think Chloe has learned from their separation?
9. Louisiana plays a vivid role in the narrative - from Beau’s rural childhood to Ru’s sexual awakening in New Orleans. Why do you think Chloe chose this place, in the end, as her home?
10. Is this portrayal of a blended or a chosen family a hopeful one? How do you think our ideas surrounding family will change in the next decade?

