



NANCY: The book starts very slowly, but gathers speed as you enter several tormented lives caught up in the winds of early aviation. Artfully crafted, blending past (the 30s) and present (the 40s) through the eyes of a photographer and two famous aviators. This love story that wraps itself around an innovative novel taking off from the story of Amelia Earhart, and landing on a field of this creative author's making. An engaging read which I highly recommend.



KATHARINE: A great window into the early days of aviation, which was really not so long ago. I loved the storytelling in this book, especially the way she chronicles the pilots' experiences. It felt so real and harrowing. A good book for history classes looking at WWI, WWII, the history of Spain and the history of aviation.



PRISCILLA: Oh my. These people didn't fit the mold, did they? So much drinking, smoking and infidelity. Do you think something like this could really happen? I hope Amelia Earhart didn't do anything like this! God rest her soul.



JANE: Go Irene Foster! My hero. Now there's a woman for you. A pioneer of flight who broke free from domination and lived her best life. I didn't see it coming until it arrived and then I cheered her on. Yes! Yes! Yes!



MOLLY: A great story! I loved it. A lot of unexpected twists and turns, don't you think? I figured out the big reveal right before it happened. See if you do, too. I identified with Irene. She found a way to live her best life, in spite of the restraints of her day. That's what I am to do, as well.



ABIGAIL: I loved that Irene was a pacifist. You know pacifists have a history of serving in war time. She was willing to give up her life for love. You don't usually think of pacifists in war, but it used to be that pacifists could enlist in the military and be assigned to noncombat duty. I think we should go back to that approach.



SALLIE: Yes, look at what happens to the children in challenging families. The selfish mother, the distant father, the alcoholic. You see their lives unfolding. This book is also a tribute to the human spirit who finds wings to soar out of pain into hope and love. I'm starting to sound like a Christmas carol. Merry Christmas, y'all!



Discussion Guide

About the Book

Title: Her Last

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Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. How did this book add to your understanding of the early days of aviation? What surprised you about the early airplanes and the celebrity culture surrounding it?
3. Describe the character of Irene Foster. What did she love about flying and what did she dislike about her life as a pilot? What were her motivations?
4. Sam Mallory seems like a fairly tragic character in this book. What defined his life and how did he follow his dreams?
5. Janey emerges as a journalist to chronicle Sam's story with demons of her own. What defined Janey's character? What did she hope to find in her writing? How was her life transformed because of her search?
6. What role do the two spouses in the story, Mr. Morrow and Mrs. Mallory play? Why were they an important part of the story?
7. Would you consider this a feminist novel? Why or why not?
8. What does this book teach about fame and following your dream?
9. How is forgiveness a theme in this novel? What does it teach about the importance of self-forgiveness?
10. Read over the MAMs comments on the book. Which of them do you most agree with and why?
10. In what ways, if any, will this book change your life or perspective?