



Raising Rain

A novel by Debbie Fuller Thomas

Questions for Discussion Groups

1. Bebe says that a song can take you back ‘to one distinct moment in time.’ Why is that? What song takes you back, and what feelings does it invoke? What is Rain’s ‘moment in time?’
2. Jude claims that it is every woman’s rite of passage to have an abortion. How does this philosophy affect Rain’s life and that of other women her age?
3. William and Neil are the closest to a father that Rain has. Compare them and what she learned from each of them about love, fidelity and trust.
4. At the beginning of the book, Rain’s relationship with Jude is strained and almost non-existent. What evidence do you see that their relationship is improving as the story proceeds? How does this affect her relationship with Bebe and why?
5. There are references to shades of purple throughout the story. What is the significance and where do you find them? In particular, what does the amethyst ring represent to her? Bebe says that “Sometimes it was the color of table grapes—sometimes the color of the sun through a bottle of merlot.” Why does she choose to contrast these?
6. Jude is vehemently against marriage. Why is that and why does she stay with William? How does her view impact Rain’s relationships?

7. When gender expectations and boundaries were redefined in the 70's, it created confusion for both men and women. Bebe wanted freedom, but what expectations of Bobby did she still cling to and what particular challenges did she have with her parents? What conclusion does she draw about that time when she reconciles with Bobby?

8. Who is your favorite character (or characters) and what are their defining characteristics? Have you ever known anyone like them?

9. What does Rain come to realize about herself and Hayden through her dogged pursuit of motherhood? How much does finding closure with her mother impact her relationship with him?

10. During their discussion about God at the aquarium, Bebe says that sometimes God's healing isn't physical, and Jude points out that Bebe's wounds are 'positively oozing.' How does Bebe find healing for her past?