Further Reading

Sing, Unburied, Sing (Sep 2017) by Ward, Jesmyn

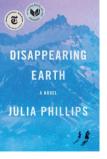
A story of how the past affects the present, and of deeply entrenched racism, Sing Unburied Sing describes the life of a biracial boy, his addicted, grieving black mother, and his incarcerated white father. A road trip to Dad's prison kickstarts the novel, which offers deeply affecting characters, a strong sense of place (rural Mississippi), and a touch of magical realism in appearances by the dead.

The Glass Hotel (Mar 2020) by Mandel, Emily St. John

From the author of 'Station Eleven' comes a captivating novel of money, beauty, white-collar crime, ghosts and moral compromise in which a woman disappears from a container ship off the coast of Mauritania and a massive Ponzi scheme implodes in New York, dragging countless fortunes with it.

Disappearing earth (May 2019) by Phillips, Julia

The shattering disappearance of two young girls from Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula compounds the isolation and fears of a tight-woven community, connecting the lives of neighbors, witnesses, family members and a detective throughout an ensuing year of tension.



Book Club

in a Bag

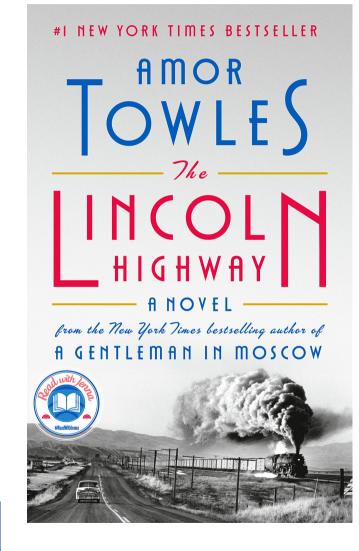
THE GLASS

HOTFI

EMILY ST. JOHN

MANDEL

BOOK DISCUSSION





Discussion Questions

1. Every character-main and secondary-in this novel has a dream. Some are big and some are simple, but all of the hopes and dreams have collateral consequences. Whose dreams do you think had the biggest impact on the rest of the characters? Whose dreams do you identify with most?

2. The Lincoln Highway is full of expectations based on class, gender, and race. The burden of expectations can be heavy. Discuss how expectations affect the character's choices. How have others' expectations of you changed the decisions you've made in your life? What expectations might have been on you, if you were a young adult in the 1950s?

3. Duchess spends much of the novel concerned with settling moral debts both owed and owed to him. Do you agree with his idea that the universe is keeping score in some way? Do you think he deserved the ending he got? What do you think his life would have looked like if he had known how to swim?

4. By all accounts, Wooly lived a life of privilege unlike any of the other characters. But, Wooly was very different than the other boys. In today's world, Wooly might have been diagnosed with a mental health or cognitive condition and received treatment. If Wooly were alive today, how do you think his journey might have ended? How have we made progress in the treatment of young adult mental health, and where is there progress yet to be made?

5. A central theme of The Lincoln Highway is ambition–wanting more than you were born into. What do you think happened to Emmett and Billy's mother? Where do you think she is now? Besides the boy's mother, Sally serves as the central female character in the book. What do you make of the relationship between Emmett and Sally? What do you think happens to Sally after the novel ends?

6. One of the criticisms of the book is the depiction of Billy as overly precocious beyond his years. Have you ever known a child like that? Were you a child like that? Do you think Emmett was fit to be a caregiver for his younger brother?

7. The Lincoln Highway is a book about metamorphosis. Which character do you think transforms the most over the course of the book?

8. Even though there are a handful of central characters, the novel introduces many secondary characters along the journey. Of those, who do you most identify with? Which of the supporting characters would you like to read a full novel about?

g. The era of the book almost functions as another character — what themes in the book do you think are unique to the time period, and which ones do you think would persist if the novel took place in modern times?

10. With all that happens in the novel, it's hard to believe it only spans 10 days. What were the most memorable 10 days of your life? Why do you think the author chose to constrain the story to this limited amount of time?

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