

Further Reading

Still Me
Jojo Moyes (2018)
MOYES

Louisa Clark from *Me Before You* and *After You* arrives in New York to start a new life and a long-distance relationship with Ambulance Sam while working for the super-wealthy Gopniks, a job that introduces her to New York high society and a secretive man who reminds her of her own past.

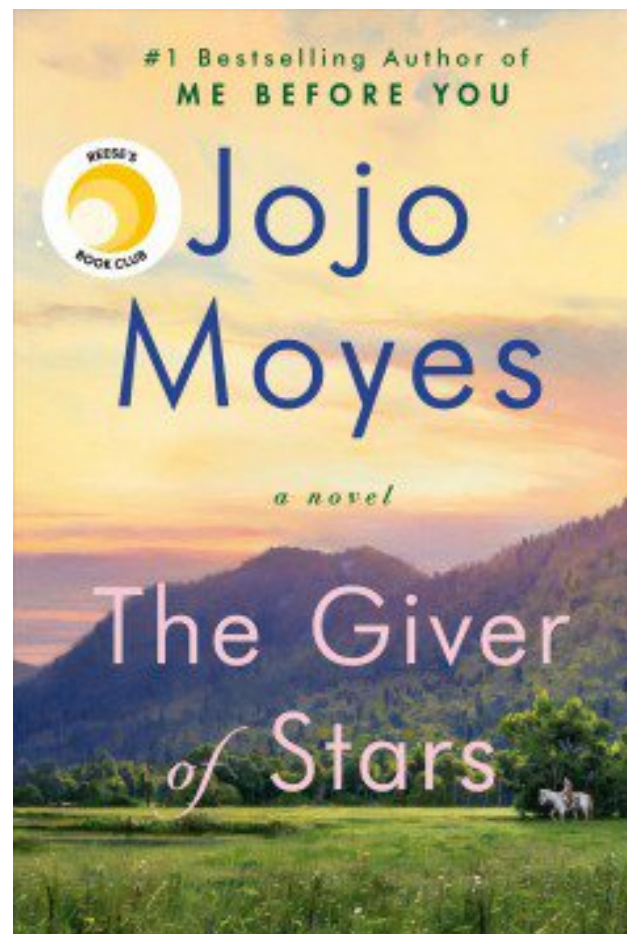
Silver Bay
Jojo Moyes (2014)
MOYES

Liza McCullen will never fully escape her past. But the unspoiled beaches and tight-knit community of Silver Bay offer the freedom and safety she craves-if not for herself, then for her young daughter, Hannah. A surprising and moving romance set in an old-fashioned seaside town on the verge of unwelcome change.

The Horse Dancer
Jojo Moyes (2017)
MOYES

When her grandfather is ill, Sarah's life takes an unexpected turn, forcing Sarah, and her horse Boo, to rely on Natasha, a lawyer whose job is to represent the best interests of children.

Book Discussion Guide





About the Book

Alice Wright marries handsome American Bennett Van Cleve hoping to escape her stifling life in England. But small-town Kentucky quickly proves equally claustrophobic, especially living alongside her overbearing father-in-law. So when a call goes out for a team of women to deliver books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt's new traveling library, Alice signs on enthusiastically. The leader, and soon Alice's greatest ally, is Margery, a smart-talking, self-sufficient woman who's never asked a man's permission for anything. They are joined by three other singular women who become known as the Horseback Librarians of Kentucky. What happens to them--and to the men they love--becomes a classic drama of loyalty, justice, humanity and passion.

Discussion Questions

1. While writing and researching *The Giver of Stars*, author Jojo Moyes visited Kentucky several times, stayed in a tiny cabin on the side of a mountain, rode horses along the trails, and met the people of Kentucky. Did the characters and sense of place feel authentic to you?
2. Alice is an outsider in Baileyville. She grew up in a rarefied world in England. How does she adapt to the considerably different world in Appalachia? Have you ever moved to a distinctly different location? What was that transition like? How did you adapt?
3. Literacy and censorship are significant issues in *The Giver of Stars*, issues that affect the women of the novel very differently from the men. How so? Why do you think Moyes chose to focus on these topics?

4. Moyes has said she wanted to write a book about women who had agency and who actually did something worthwhile, rather than simply existing in a romantic or domestic plot line. Margery is the unofficial leader of the librarians and Alice eventually inherits that role when Margery is jailed. Yet throughout the book, most of the women have their moments of agency. Which of these moments struck you most intensely? Did you ever wish a character had taken action when she didn't? If so, when? What could she have done differently?

5. The novel features families from vastly different backgrounds and one of the central issues in the book is that of class inequality. In which scenarios did you see these dynamics play out, and between which characters?

6. There are numerous ways in the book in which the acquisition of knowledge changes characters' lives: protecting their homes, educating their families, and liberating themselves from marriages. Have you ever experienced such a shift in your own life based on a knowledge gap filled? Did it improve your life or make it more difficult?

7. The relationships between men and women in this book vary greatly—from Margery and Sven's loving, mutual respect and passion, to Bennett and Alice's bewildered lack of understanding, to the true love affair that blossoms between Alice and Fred. How do these relationships differ? Did you relate to any of them in particular or to any of the problems these women faced in their romantic relationships?

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