



RENAISSANCE A NOVEL

By Susan Fish



A Discussion Guide with thoughts to ponder from the Author

How does motherhood come to an end in this book? Describe the various ways?

Have you ever been to Italy?

What role does art of various sorts play within Liz's journey in this book?

Have you ever talked with a painting?

What are the roles of men (Niccolo, Russ, Liz's sons, and father) in this book?

What is a good mother? What is a good enough mother? Is Liz a good mother? A good enough mother? Is the Mother Superior?

Did this book shift your view of Mary at all? What was it before? What is it now?

What expectations are there on mothers?

Empty nest syndrome – have you experienced it?

What do you imagine happens when Liz returns to Canada?

How is Schrodinger's Cat like Holy Saturday?

Liz carries a whistle with her. Is it prudent or overcautious in your estimation? Have you travelled alone? Did you take similar precautions?

Talk about the betrayals of trust in the book.

Is this book religious or sacrilegious?

When Liz lets loose with a volley of F bombs, how did you respond?

How do you understand Liz's experiences with the Vespers service in San Miniato, her experiences with the nuns and her unwillingness to go to the English church?

Liz has an experience of being wooed in the garden with violets. How does this contribute to her renaissance?

Where are the moments of intimacy in this book?

This is a sensual book. What imagery or sensory details stand out?

Why might this book be called Renaissance?

Is this a book for women only?

Is this book one that takes a stance on abortion? What would you say its stance is? Does it alienate readers with differing stances?

What are the turning points in the book?

Is this a main character with first-world problems?

Friendships play a key role in this book, whether that is Liz's friend Joanna at home, Honey and Salvia at the convent, or Elora, her long-lost classmate. What do these relationships show about the potential gifts and hazards of female friendship? Are you satisfied with how things resolve with Elora?

Anti-gardening and pruning are ways Liz deals with her grief. Is this a metaphor that resonates with you? Have you ever done something similar?