

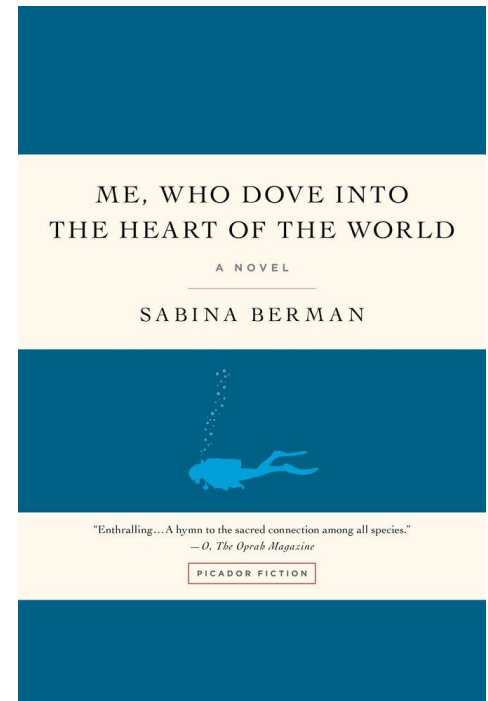
PICADOR

Reading Group Gold

Me, Who Dove into the Heart of the World

by Sabina Berman

1. Karen's world is dark for several years in her childhood, but how does language open her to the world? And how does the style and the voice in the novel allow you to see the world through Karen's eyes? What are some narrative devices in the book that give you further insight into her world?
2. Describe the relationship between Karen and her aunt Isabelle. How does Karen go from being a feral child to a fully functioning adult? Is there something to be said about the nature vs. nurture debate?
3. Karen disagrees with Descartes's statement of "I think therefore I am." Why does this statement make her so angry and what does she say sets her apart from other human beings? What are the gifts that make her different from "standard humans" as she puts it, and how does she use them to her advantage?
4. Does the book make you more conscious about the environment and our impact on nature? Why or why not? What are your thoughts on the food industry and where our food comes from? What do you think is the intent of the author in how she resolved the fate of Consolation Tuna?
5. Did you find certain scenes of the novel to be comedic? Did these scenes also make you feel empathy towards Karen? How does the novel provide insight into the way people with different abilities understand the world?
6. Because of Karen's struggle with her autism, Karen eventually learns to enter into Relating Mode when surrounded by other people. She is only able to truly be herself when alone or with her aunt. Do you think all human beings enter into Relating Mode to some extent? Are we only able to truly be ourselves around those closest to us?
7. Mr. Gould is depicted as a shrewd businessman who hates failure and thrives on success. Yet, Karen's description of him paints a sad picture in which his failures in life drive his greed. What is your impression of Gould? Is he at all a sympathetic character, or do you think he got what he duly deserved?



8. Mr. Gould is depicted as a shrewd businessman who hates failure and thrives on success. Yet, Karen's description of him paints a sad picture in which his failures in life drive his greed. What is your impression of Gould? Is he at all a sympathetic character, or do you think he got what he duly deserved?
9. In many ways Karen remains a child even through adulthood, yet she is confronted with situations where she is expected to act as an adult. How does she respond to these situations? Is there ever a point where she experiences a loss of innocence?
10. What is the significance of Ricardo in the story? Why is Karen able to relate to him when she is unable to relate to others?
11. Karen finds happiness in the senses rather than in fantasy as she says humans do. She experiences the world through quantitative measures rather than imagination and beliefs. In what ways do you find yourself experiencing the world? Can you relate to Karen in the way she finds joy?
12. Aunt Isabelle denies the existence of God throughout her life, yet as she nears death she recognizes the vast power of God. She says, "God is everything we can't know." Why do you think she changes her position at that moment, and do you think Karen believes in a god as well? How does Karen experience God? What do you think Sabina Berman, the author is trying to show us about faith and science?

About the Author

SABINA BERMAN is a four-time winner of the Mexican National Theatre Prize for her plays; she also writes film scripts, poetry, prose, and journalism, and has published several novellas. *Me, Who Dove into the Heart of the World*, which will be published in seventeen territories, is her first novel. She lives in Mexico.

LISA DILLMAN teaches in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Emory University and has translated numerous works of fiction by Argentine, Mexican, Catalan and Spanish writers. She lives in Decatur, GA.



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