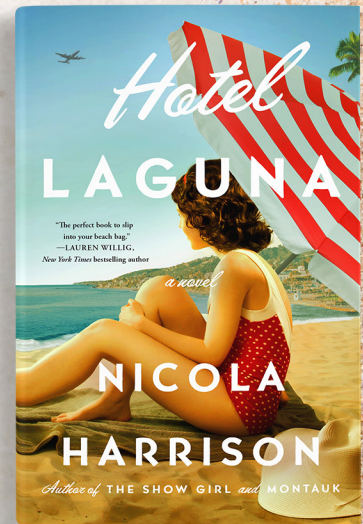


Hotel LAGUNA

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1. Hazel is a strong, impulsive, and determined character. Did you relate to her at the beginning of the book? Does she change by the end?
2. Was Hazel wrong in the way she initiated her relationship with Bobby Watson? Afterward, should she have handled things differently?
3. How does Hazel's upbringing, and her lack of family to return to, influence her choices and impact how she interacts in the world?
4. Hanson is a complex character. How did you feel about him throughout this novel? Did your feelings toward him change? Did he influence and/or transform Hazel in any positive or negative ways?
5. The Isabella Rose scandal hangs over Hanson's head for most of his life. Did you sympathize with him? Do you think he played a role in Isabella's death, or was he the victim?
6. Laguna Beach becomes a special place, an almost sacred place, to many of the characters—Hazel, Jimmy, Hanson. Discuss the role that the setting and atmosphere of this beach town play in the story.
7. This novel celebrates the value of community and unexpected friendships. Have you ever had an experience where a community or a specific friendship has saved you or changed your life?
8. Did you think it was inevitable that Hazel and Jimmy would end up together the way they did, or did you think that Edgar Berg might stand a chance?
9. Truth and beauty are two recurring themes in the story. In what ways were the main characters affected by them?
10. The Pageant of the Masters is a world-famous art show that started back in the 1930s and continues to this day. Have you heard of it before? Were you able to visualize the living tableaus coming together? Did this novel make you want to experience this event in person?



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