



1. In what ways is this not only a romantic love story but also a love story about friendship?
2. On page 107, Heather explains the meaning that she, Amy, and Constance have given to the word *true*. What in your life is *true* in this way?
3. We first meet Heather's parents through phone calls and text messages. What was your first impression of them? Did your impression change after they were introduced in person once Heather was back in America?
4. When Heather becomes overwhelmed while looking at Johannes Vermeer's *The Milkmaid*, she explains that it was the "pursuit of the simple and sublime, and it hurt my heart a little to let it inside me." What does she mean by this? Have you ever experienced a similar feeling?
5. When Heather and Jack have their first fight about New York, Heather accuses Jack of wanting to hurt her with his words. Do you think this is true? In a later argument, Jack accuses Heather of trading in freedom for security. Why do you think Jack said what he did? Whom did you find yourself siding with during their arguments?
6. Of all the places that Jack and Heather go and the adventures that they have, which were your favorites? Which scenes stood out to you the most?
7. What was your reaction when Jack abandoned Heather at the airport? Were you surprised, or did you see clues that this might happen earlier in the novel?

Discussion  
Questions



8. Were you surprised by Raef's revelation to Heather at the wedding? Did you have any guesses as to where Raef and Jack had gone that day in Paris before Raef revealed the truth?
9. On page 369, Heather observes that, "Hemingway celebrated death in life; the Surva Festival asked for life in death. It made a difference, somehow, but I could not yet determine what that might be." What does Heather mean by this? What do you think the difference is? How do we see these ideas reflected throughout the novel?
10. What was your reaction to the end of the novel? What do you imagine to happen for Heather and Jack after the Surva Festival?