



Discussion Questions

1. In the Prologue, Fletcher tells Marvin that between an individual and his family, “there is no line... You’re one entity, and when a part of you is cut away, the rest of you slowly bleeds out” (p. 4). How does Jack influence Fletcher’s notion of family? Do you think Fletcher would make this statement at the end of the novel?
2. When Jack approaches The Fat Lady platoon, Fletcher and Rogan perceive his presence quite differently. Rogan instinctually sees the dog as a threat, while Fletcher senses that Jack was “coming to us for help” (p. 50). What do you think of Rogan’s reaction? How does this conflict shed light on the war and its effect upon the soldiers?
3. How does the relationship between Fletcher and Jack resonate with you? Has there been a time when a dog (or other animal) “saved” you?
4. In the Author’s Note, we learn that Gareth Crocker bases his story on the real Vietnam war dogs who were declared “surplus military equipment” and left behind. How do you feel about the use of war dogs in the military? In what ways does *Finding Jack* shape your views?
5. *Finding Jack* touches on a few almost “supernatural” elements. A fiery apparition of Fletcher’s wife and daughter seems to lead him to safety, and Fletcher implies that Jack is the dog he intended to buy for Kelly. How do you interpret these supernatural occurrences? Are they products of Fletcher’s damaged mind? What do they say about the psychology of war?
6. At the end of the novel, we learn that Rogan lives alone and works as a night-shift security guard at a chemical factory. Given Rogan’s status in the war, and his achievements as a courageous leader, does this outcome surprise you? Why or why not?

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