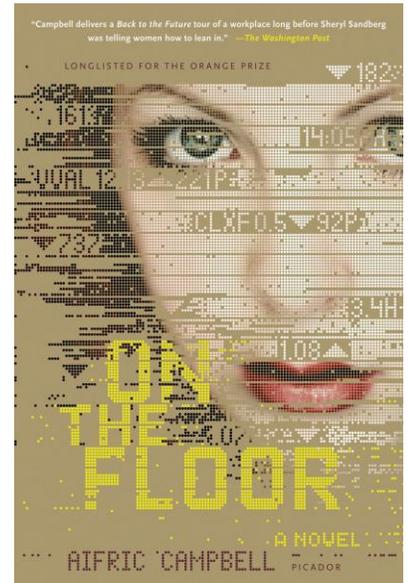


PICADOR

Reading Group Gold

On The Floor

by Aifric Campbell



1. Has this novel informed or changed the way you think about banking or bankers? Do you think that fiction can be a useful way for readers to learn about finance?
2. Geri describes herself as the “skirt amongst men.” Do you think her personality has been shaped by her years in a male-dominated work environment?
3. Geri is a very smart, talented, and successful young woman, but she allows the men in her life to shape her destiny — her boss, her client, and her ex-lover. Why does she take such a passive role in managing her future? Do you think that women are sometimes too submissive in the workplace? Do you think that women are ambivalent about ambition?
4. Why does Geri cling on to the man who dumped her? Is she really still in love with Stephen?
5. In the beginning of the novel Geri’s describes how her best friend, Zanna, tried to help her after her breakup with Stephen. Did you feel that Zanna was genuinely supportive?
6. At the end of the book, Geri has to make a difficult decision about the future of her relationship with Zanna, her “most effective friend.” Did you think her choice was realistic?
7. Geri’s past and her family tragedy are not revealed until very close to the novel’s conclusion. How did this affect your understanding of her character?
8. At the very end of the novel, readers have to make up their own mind about the choice that Geri makes. What do you think Geri will decide to do?
9. The entire novel unfolds in the present tense during the four days leading up to the 1991 Gulf War. Did you feel that this added to the sense of tension?

About the Author

Aifric Campbell spent thirteen years at Morgan Stanley, where she became the first woman managing director on the London trading floor. She left to earn a Ph.D. in creative writing at the University of East Anglia and currently teaches at Imperial College, London. Campbell has been awarded a fellowship at UCLA and residencies at Yaddo.



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Reading group guide written by Aifric Campbell