



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

The Book of Two Ways by Jodi Picoult

1. The book asks: “Who would you be, if you hadn’t turned out to be the person you are right now?” If you had to pinpoint the one person or thing you left behind, what or who would it be? Do you wonder: What if? How might your life be different if you had taken that different route?
2. Had you ever heard of a death doula before reading *The Book of Two Ways*? What did you think of this care practice and the way it is incorporated in the novel?
3. Both Egyptian mythology and quantum physics are explored in the book, and they are often presented as two opposites in Dawn’s life. Do you think they are as different as Dawn perceives them to be, or are there ways in which they actually overlap?
4. Do you think Dawn’s decision not to return to Egypt after her mother passes away is ultimately a selfish or a selfless choice?
5. Dawn and her daughter, Meret, have a close but challenging relationship. What do you think causes them to clash so often? What do they learn from one another by the end of the book?
6. Picoult plays with the idea of parallel universes and alternate timelines as we see Dawn’s narrative unravel in both Boston and in Egypt. Were you surprised when it became clear which timeline Dawn truly exists in?
7. If you were in Dawn’s shoes, would you choose to stay with Brian or pursue a life with Wyatt? Or is there another path you would take instead?
8. What do you think makes for a good legacy? Are certain things—like one’s career, contributions to science or culture, or family— weighed more heavily than others when considering what constitutes a “good life”?

The above questions were taken from
<https://jodipicoult.com/pdfs/the-book-of-two-ways-book-club-kit.pdf>
for your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Jodi Picoult was born in Nesconset, New York on May 19, 1966. She received a degree in creative writing from Princeton University in 1987 and a master's degree in education from Harvard University. She published two short stories in Seventeen magazine while still in college. Immediately after graduation, she landed a variety of jobs, ranging from editing textbooks to teaching eighth-grade English. – *Bowker Author Biography*

Author Website: <https://www.jodipicoult.com/>

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