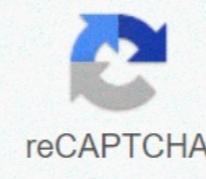




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The next person you meet in heaven discussion questions

To continue enjoying the site we ask you to confirm your identity as a human being. Thank you very much for your cooperation. In this heartbreaking sequel to the number one bestseller *Five You Meet in Paradise*, Mitch's celestial reunion story album *Eddie with Any-Little Girl* saved him on earth - in an unforgettable novel of how our lives and losses intersect. Fifteen years ago, in Mitch Albutum's popular novel *Five People You Meet in Heaven*, the world fell in love with Eddie, a veteran war-grizzly amusement park mechanic who died saving the life of a young girl named Ani. Eddie's journey to heaven taught him that every life matters. Now in this magical sequel Mitch Alblum reveals an anonymous story. The incident that killed Eddie left an undeniable mark on Ani. He took his left hand, which he had to surgically attack again, injured, wounded, and unable to remember why, Ani's life was forever ruined by a sinful mother who whispered her away from the world she knew. Bullied by her peers and haunted by something she can't remember, Anani struggles to find acceptance as she grows up. When, in his youth, he re-connects with Paolo, his childhood love, he believes he has finally found happiness. As the novel opens, Anani is marrying Paolo. But when her wedding night day ends in an unimaginable coincidence, Ani finds herself on her heavenly journey—and an inevitable reunion with Eddie, one of five people who will show her how her life is important in a way she can't fathom. Strong and beautiful, full of unexpected twists, your next person in paradise reminds us that not only is every life important, but each ending is also a beginning—we just need to open our eyes to see it. Less... Harper Paperbacks Paperback October 2019 224 Pages 9780062294456 \$15.99 [Albom's] new novel offers unexpected twists and clever turns that will delight his passionate fans. — AARP Magazine Fans of the first book will have plenty to appreciate here. — Publishers Weekly It's a tale filled with joy, heart and wisdom, and it's a reminder to cherish those we love the most. — As Anani learns her lessons on the meaning and value of both life and death, Albom wraps up this fable heartfelt with a totally unexpected twist. Order plenty of versions, and alert readers to keep their hankies handy! — Booklist 1. Why is the ending often so difficult and challenging? What is the healthy balance between staying connected and moving on? 2. What does Ani, as a nurse, understand that many people may not? 3. Central to the story of Anani and his feelings for himself are assumed mistakes. What constitutes a mistake? In what fields or situations are allowed or even necessary? 4. What is the relationship between Ani's round and Sameer's? How is it that we can communicate with people we've never met before? Who would you be in touch with? 5. Sameer chose to flip [his] human existence and deal with something he most feared. What stops so many people from doing this while alive? 6. Throughout the story, vibrant colors are described. What does such detail add? Why are they important to the subject? 7. Consider Anani's mother, Lorraine. In what respects was she a good mother or not? How did Ani's father have an impact on the two? 8. How is Cleo, a dog, one of the most important people in Ani's life? What makes dogs such potentially good companions for humans? What are the limits of powerful relationships with a pet? 9. What is the potential value of loneliness? What determines when it becomes debilitating or dangerous? 10. Paulo believes Ani's injury makes her unique in a valuable way, while she cries very differently. What is the difference between different or unique? Why does the difference in others often go away, while most people seem to want to be the individual themselves? 11. Lorraine tries to teach Ani about the danger of keeping secrets: We think that by keeping them, we control things, but they control us all the time. How is it that secrets can be unhealthy? Are useful secrets held? 12. Ani was named after a brave woman who, at the age of 63, went in a barrel over Niagara Falls. What's courage? How is it different from courage or reckless? 1. Do you think Eddie is a relative character? Why or why? While Eddie certainly has some dark spots in his past, he is a good person throughout. The album makes it clear from the very first season - despite Eddie's grizzly exterior, he is kind to his children, staff, and he dies trying to save a little girl from a tragic accident. Moreover, as the narrative continues, the album peels off Eddie's stiff exterior, thus destroying the old man's behavior. Eddie's abusive father, his long-term injuries, the debacle he saw in the war and the loss of his beloved wife have all helped the man who died when he died. In addition, the album structures the novel in an immediate cause-and-effect pattern and actually labels the chapters as their intended sessions and/or lessons. By breaking Eddie's psyche in a way that is right, the album makes Eddie a relative hero. 2. Why do you think Eddie's father doesn't talk to Eddie in heaven? Eddie Kieh harbors his father, which is only normal given their fraught relationship. Yet Ruby is not there to reassure Eddie that her father loves her and brings father and son in each other's arms - she can't change the past. All he can do is present a new, impartial perspective on this situation, he makes it clear that Eddie's hatred for So that it may be for everyone else- and the only way to get rid of it is to forgive his father. Kieh Eddy is a weight that prevents him from losing his earthly existence - and he has to drain it regardless of his father's reaction. 3. Why do you think the album refuses to tell the truth about whether Eddie was able to save Amy or Any by the end of the novel? How does this decision affect the plan? When Eddie first arrives in heaven, he wants to know if he was able to save the little girl from the falling basket before she dies. He pins the value of his whole life on this one answer. However, no one can answer the question until the end of Eddie's journey to see how much it means to so many people. He must understand that a life cannot be measured successfully by a single act. Eddie finally realizes that he saved the life of Amy or Any at the moment he realizes he has ended Tula's life. Accepting both of these facts at the same time, Eddie is finally able to ascend to heaven knowing that even if his life was not always logical, it was definitely worth something. 4. Although the album does not explicitly express criticisms of contemporary society, what do you think the novel says about marriage? All the marriages the album describes in the film five people you meet in heaven remain intact throughout the novel. Eddie and Marguerith meet as teenagers, fall in love and go through thick and thin together. Marguerith does not move when Eddie disappears in the Philippines for six months, nor leaves his side when he gets away. Instead, he remains his stalwart support system. Likewise Eddie's mother stands with Eddie's father despite his violent temper and drunken rampage. In fact, the sin of knowing that Eddie's father died trying to avenge his honor essentially led Eddie's mother to nervous breakdown. Ruby also cares about Emile after losing Ruby Wharf and his fortune. She makes it clear that her life is hard to come by after the fire, describing her happiest moment of meeting Emile while working as a diner waitress. While these examples relate to certain time periods in American history (e.g. the Great Depression), the album is also offering a very traditional, heteronormative and slightly patriarchal view of marriage. 5. What point do you think the album is trying to make by describing the real estate lawyer's reaction to Eddie's apartment? (It sure beats an ending like this poor slob, with little to show but the kitchen is tidy.) The property lawyer scene offers an contrast with Eddie's emotional defining journey in paradise. At the beginning of the novel, Eddie is crying out at the fact that his life is of no value because he has no financial assets and never achieved much through a job, and the real estate lawyer speaks to that view. However, by the estate lawyer goes through Eddie's apartment, the reader is now aware of how many people care about Eddie and how many touches his heart. The ongoing contrast between heaven and earth allows us to superficially reject the real estate lawyer's assessment of Eddie's life. Although Eddie's treasure box is not worth the money, the reader knows that each of the items in his apartment represents a priceless memory. 6. Who or what do you believe is an antagonist in the five people you meet in heaven? The most powerful hostile forces are internal in the five people you meet in heaven. Throughout the narrative, Eddie held certain people responsible for his problems. He fears for his father, temporarily lashes out at his captain and even wishes Ruby Pier had never been built. None of these struggles, however, translates to paradise - there, Eddie's main challenge is to free up all the darkness that weighs his soul so that he can enter the after-death life. That is, Eddie has to forgive his father for all his faults, his captain for shooting himself in the knee, and finally he has to let go of his guilt for hardening Marguerith's life. 7. Describe the album's use of dramatic irony as a way to make the point that everything and everyone is interconnected. At the end of the novel, the narrator points out that Nikki, the key owner who caused the accident that killed Eddie, happens to be Ruby's great-granddaughter. None of the characters ever noticed this, but by revealing this piece of information at the end of the novel, the album again emphasizes the fact that everything is connected - even if those connections are not readily obvious or even important. Moreover, Eddie and Marguerith will never know that a pair of teenagers caused Marguerith's accidents - this is also a situational irony as these two walking children indirectly retire Eddie and Marguerith from having children. 8. Describe the role of class in the novel, especially in the relationship between Eddie and his father. As a young man, Eddie dreams of reaching the American dream. He wants to be an engineer, but his father ridicules him, who Eddie is tied to his father's understanding of success - throughout his life on earth, Eddie believes he is a disappointment because he followed in his father's working-class footsteps. In fact, Eddie even describes his career at Ruby Wharf as if it were punishment: He cursed his father for dying and trapping him in the same life as he was trying to escape, a life that, as he heard the old man laughing from his grave, apparently good enough for him now (128). However, it is Tula who helps Eddie see how much his work means to many people; Tula is a child, so his vision is not shaped by social structures. Instead, he simply expresses unjudged. 9. Addition to Eddie, will any of the other characters in the five people you meet in heaven change? Why or why? Eddie is the only character to go through a significant emotional shift throughout the novel, which is unusual but also emphasizes the deeply subjective nature of the narrative. Eddie's perspective changes thanks to the five people he meets, but the album specifically structures the novel's timeline to keep anyone else stagnant in the novel or bewildered in the past. Marguerith is waiting for Eddie in heaven, arms - he has already forgiven him until he gets there. Even though Eddie forges his father, his father can't even hear him. The album in this text engineers all the supporting characters to guide Eddie in certain ways. Because of the narrative of everything and frequent analysis, it is arguably that the reader is similarly engaged to Eddie's journey and change along with him. Also - the novel is called Eddie's Five People Meet in Heaven, which hints that the album tries to teach its reader something with Eddie's story. 10. albums write. All parents are harmed by their children (104). Analyze the importance of this phrase in understanding the five people you meet in heaven. The album includes this comment while describing Eddie's fraught relationship with his father. However, despite Eddie's father's mistake, Eddie turns out to be a good guy, Eddie's father damaged his son's confidence but he did not do well in Eddie's heart. Ruby tries to explain this to Eddie by telling the true circumstances about Eddie's father's death, revealing that Eddie's father called the names of his family members before he died. He shows Eddie that his father is fighting his own demons. He was definitely a bad parent and husband, caused by the fact that he was also a deeply flawed man. Throughout the novel, Eddie learns that his father, though cruel, led him to where he was supposed to be: Ruby Quay. As Ruby tells Eddie - Your father is not the reason you never left the docks (142). The harm Eddie's father did to him ultimately led to his happy eternity, thus defining the man he became.

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