



Jodi Picoult

Book club discussion questions

Picture Perfect

1. Hands figure significantly and symbolically in *Picture Perfect*. Explain.
2. Cassandra Barrett is a highly educated, successful and independent woman when she meets and falls in love with Alex Rivers. What aspect of her character or her past allows a woman of her stature to endure the abuse she suffers repeatedly at his hands?
3. Why does Connor continue to appear to Cassie in her dreams? What does he represent?
4. Discuss the symbolism of birds in *Picture Perfect*.
5. What is the significance of Cassie's career in anthropology, particularly physical anthropology?
6. What attitudes toward the study of anthropology--as well as her own life--does Cassie form after her time spent at Pine Ridge?
7. What does Will learn about himself and about his life through his friendship with Cassie?

8. When Cassie prepares to reconcile with Alex after the birth of their son, Will says to her, "You know what he's done to you before, you know he's going to do it again. I couldn't escape the past, no matter how hard I tried. Neither can Alex, and neither can you." Do you agree with this statement, that who we are and who we will become are determined by our pasts? Is it possible to change?
9. Do you agree with Cassie that the only way for Alex to let go of her is to let the world know the truth about him?
10. What are your feelings toward Alex at the end of the book? Cassie? Will?