



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

“A House in the Sky” by Amanda Lindhout, Sarah Corbett

1. Above all else, Amanda identifies herself as a traveler, an identity born out of her childhood obsession with *National Geographic*. Why do you think *National Geographic* had such a large impact on her?
2. On page 14, Amanda discusses sneaking into an amusement park after dark, with a childhood friend. How does this childhood memory reflect Amanda’s experience traveling to foreign countries and unknown places? Is part of the thrill of travel related to risk?
3. Amanda’s first trip, to South America, initially disappoints her because Caracas doesn’t “feel foreign”. What does this demonstrate about the different ways people travel?
4. During this trip to South America, Amanda confronts the experience of venturing off the beaten path, and defines the feeling of the frontier as “a knife point between elation and terror” (p. 36). How will this balance come to define her travels?
5. The memory of cutting her friend Kelly’s hair will become one of the things that sustains Amanda throughout her captivity. Why do you think this memory sticks with her?
6. In Dhaka, Amanda experiences what she sees as the “beautiful” side of Islam, but also confronts the dangers inherent in being a solo female traveler in that particular place. How does this dichotomy influence her experiences in captivity?
7. Why do you think Amanda and Nigel have such different takes how to best manage their captivity? What do you think are some of the advantages and disadvantages of each method?
8. How did reading *A House in the Sky* change your understanding of the role fundamentalist religion can play in a war-torn society? How did it change your perception of Somalia? What surprised you most in your reading?

The above questions were taken from Simon & Schuster, Reading Group Guide.

www.simonandschuster.ca/books/A-House-in-the-Sky/Amanda-Lindhout/9781451651690/reading_group_guide

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