

1. Is Grace's resistance to Ty understandable?
Is it unreasonable?
2. What do you think Ty means when he urges Grace to "try to be real"?
3. What does Big Green symbolize for Grace? Why is she so traumatized when she leaves it on the train?
4. What are your thoughts about the complicated, intense relationship Grace has with her mother, Julia? Did learning of Julia's history with her own father and her marriage to Dan affect your opinion of her?
5. How was Grace affected by seeing Dan so infrequently in her childhood? How do you think this may have influenced the decisions about men that she makes as an adult?
6. The waterfall is a catalyst that helps Grace become "unstuck" at crucial times in the story. Why do you think that is?
7. Peg describes Ty as a "shaman." She tells Grace that he "entrances people," and "takes them out of themselves." Have you ever had a transcendent or deeply touching experience when listening to music, seeing a film, or reading a book? Do you believe it could be true that performers and artists provide humanity with something important and necessary?
8. How does Grace change by the end of the story? At the beginning, would she have been the kind of person who could follow her in-the-moment instinct to give birth to her baby at home?
9. Some readers might consider Grace and Ty to have opposite personalities. Grace is quiet, intellectual, and cautious, while Ty is more outgoing, elemental, and spontaneous. Why do you think they might be attracted to each other, given these differences? Who are you more like, Ty or Grace? In what ways?
10. The word *grace* has many possible meanings. Some think of it as a spiritual term meaning the intangible gifts we receive through the experience of profound, loving connection with other people, or perhaps through religious practice. Joy, forgiveness, peace, gratitude, awakening, blessing: these could all be aspects of the word grace. What does *grace* mean to you? How has grace grown in your life?

*For more reading group suggestions, visit
www.readinggroupgold.com.*



Discussion Questions



St. Martin's
Griffin