

She Rides Shotgun by Jordan Harper

Fresh out of jail, Nate thrusts his 11-year-old daughter into a world of robbery and violence in an effort to keep her safe from the prison gang that has put a bounty on his head and murdered her mother.

Why you'll like it: Fast-paced. Suspenseful. Gritty.

About the Author: Jordan Harper was born and educated in Missouri. He has been a music journalist, film critic, and TV writer. He lives in Los Angeles. (HarperCollins)

Questions for Discussion

- 1. Why do you think Polly didn't run or signal for help when her dad, Nate, first met her at school?
- 2. What do you think of the bear that Polly carries with her?
- **3.** When Polly first meets Nate, she has no self-confidence and believes herself to be a loser. Besides the physical training given by her dad, what else has he taught her?
- 4. What is motivating Polly's actions?
- **5.** Do Nate, Polly, Charlotte, Detective Park seem real and believable? What about Crazy Craig Hollington, A-Rod, Sheriff Houser, Jimmy the sheriff's deputy? Were you able to empathize with them?
- 6. Does the California landscape figure as a character in the story? How or why?
- **7.** How did the roles of Polly, Nate and Charlotte influence their interactions? Were there times when the roles were reversed? When?
- 8. What surprised you the most about the book?
- 9. How credible does Harper make the plot line?
- 10. Did certain parts of the book make you feel uncomfortable? If so, why did you feel that way?
- 11. Is Nate McCluskey still alive? Why or why not?

