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.


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?