



BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

THE SUMMER SON

1. What is the motivation for Mitch's wife to demand that he visit his estranged father? Did you agree with her?
2. Mitch seems to see his living father as a villain and his dead mother as a saint. Selective memory or a view supported by the evidence? Why?
3. When Jerry decides to leave Milford, why do you suppose that he left Mitch behind?
4. How do you feel about the character of Toby Swint, both in the 1979 portions of the story and later, when he's reunited with Mitch?
5. Sheila Renfro, the motel owner in Colorado, seems to have her own quirks. What did you think of her portrayal?
6. Why would Jim Quillen keep letters from his sister but never respond to them?
7. Did Charley, the police chief in Split Rail, do enough for Mitch in protecting him from his father? Why or why not?
8. Does Mitch's time in Montana give him the perspective he needs to do better in his marriage? Explain.
9. When Mitch sees Jennifer nearly thirty years later, he doesn't reveal himself. Was that the right move? Why or why not?
10. Is Mitch's decision to keep his father's secret a good one? Why or why not?