



Book Discussion Questions for The Thin Pink Line

1. Are there times when the things that Jane does make her a not-very-likable character? Is it necessary to “like” the main character in a book for the reader to like the book itself? Can you think of any other books you’ve read and enjoyed in which the main character is either infuriating (Scarlett O’Hara?) or starts out horrid (Ebenezer Scrooge?) and winds up who is partially redeemed by story’s end?
2. What do you think of Jane’s relationships with other women in the book? How do you feel about how she treats her female relatives and friends? How do you feel about how they treat her?
3. Which one outrageous act, of all the many that Jane gets up to, makes you laugh the loudest? Which infuriated you most?
4. Granted, Jane goes about everything in an extreme way, but have you known other people who have pursued important life “acquisitions” – marriage, babies – more because “everyone else seems to be doing it” than because any deep thought has been given to the actual responsibilities and commitments involved?
5. Early on, Jane concedes that she is “a selfish person” and implies awareness of her own “tragic flaws” “shortcomings.” (p. 23) Do you agree with her that she’s self-aware? And does whatever degree of self-awareness she has make her more “OK” as a character, as opposed to one who doesn’t see any of their own shortcomings?
6. Obviously, Jane’s reasons for wanting a baby are the wrong reasons. What do you think are the right reasons for deciding to have a child?
7. Who is your least favorite character? Most? Why?
8. Were you satisfied with the ending? If not, how would you have ended it differently?
9. What do you think happens after the story ends? Are you sufficiently curious that you’d like to see, not a sequel, but a continuation of the adventures of Jane?
10. On the issues of respect and liking, can you think of any characters you feel one way about at the beginning of the book – either positive or negative – but for whom your feelings change by novel’s end?
11. Jane laments the plight of modern pregnant women (p. 82-4), implying that previous generations had it better because they had less to worry about. In what ways do you think modern pregnant women have an advantage? In what ways did the pregnant women of previous generations have the advantage?
12. In what ways is *The Thin Pink Line* similar to or different from other British comedies you’ve read?

Book Discussion Group Questions
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