

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a wide-brimmed straw hat, a white short-sleeved top, and a bright yellow skirt, stands on a rocky cliff edge. She is looking out over a vast, deep blue ocean. The water has varying shades of blue, with white foam from waves crashing against the rocks in the distance. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The overall scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a coastal or island setting.

#1 *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING AUTHOR

ROBYN
CARR

A
FAMILY
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Book
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Kit

A NOVEL

Discussion Questions



1. For Anna, family is everything. She has an aging parent who needs care and children who are adults but not quite fully independent. Her husband is unsatisfied with his life and, as a result, Anna spends all of her time caring for others but no one does the same for her. How typical is this situation? Why are women, and mothers in particular, expected to carry the burdens of everyone around them.

2. Women are often taught to make the best of a bad situation but is that actually more harmful than walking away from a bad situation?

3. The loss of a family member can be overwhelming especially when things went unsaid before that person's death. How does her husband's death free Anna from the roles she's been expected to play for her entire married life?

4. How do the unresolved issues in Anna's marriage contribute to the challenges her children face?

5. Despite the obstacles she faces, Anna maintains a generosity of spirit and welcomes strangers into her family. Would you be as accepting of these new family members?

Discussion Questions



6. Anna and her mother are very close. How difficult is it to lose your parent to dementia and to feel like a stranger to the person who always knew and loved you the most?

7. Anna's family rallies around her when she has a health scare. Why does it take something so drastic to remind people how precious life is?

8. How do you ensure that you take care of yourself so you can have the energy to devote to your family and their needs?

9. Chip never got to meet his granddaughter but Anna ensures that she is a cherished member of the family. How does a new generation change the family dynamic?

10. Have you ever experienced a family crisis and were you able to resolve it?

Q&A with Robyn Carr



What is your idea of perfect happiness?

Family. Health. Laughter. And a safe and comfortable home.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Eleanor of Aquitaine, Richard the Lionheart's mother, the queen of hearts—troubadours worshiped and wrote about her. Not only was she a romantic, but a champion of women's rights. She endowed one of the first shelters for battered women in England in a convent. She was at once a nurturing but powerfully strong woman—and I come from a family in which the women are very strong and resilient.

What is your greatest extravagance?

My children—I have a hard time spending money on myself.

Who do you most admire?

Rosamunde Pilcher, author of *The Shell Seekers*. She became a bestselling author late in life and wrote the most beautiful book. And my ex-husband's grandmother, Alice Entzminger, was an amazing woman. She'd been widowed at about age 50, lived alone and taught school until she was 70. She was always so happy that I was writing. She thought reading and writing were the most important things a woman could do. She grew up north of San Francisco, in the Napa Valley area, and was in the earthquake of 1910.

Q&A with Robyn Carr



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What is your greatest regret?

I don't know—every bad thing that ever happened to me had such a wonderful upside. Seems like your pathology is your opportunity. I have gotten my kids so convinced of that that when bad things happen, they get a little excited because they wonder what something wonderful will be next. So yeah, can't think of a single thing I would undo.

What or who is the greatest love of your life?

My daughter is my best friend and supporter and my granddaughters, four of them, are so wonderful. There is no man in my life at this time but I'm open to the idea that there's still plenty of time for a rich, romantic relationship.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

My children. They are my biggest victory. I have no idea how they turned out so well, because, really, Big Bird raised them. Maybe they're the better for it?

What is your motto?

It doesn't cost you anything to be nice.



Robyn Carr is an award-winning, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of more than sixty novels, including highly praised women's fiction such as *Four Friends*, *The Summer That Made Us* and *The View from Alameda Island*, as well as the critically acclaimed *Virgin River*, *Thunder Point* and *Sullivan's Crossing* series. *Virgin River* is now a Netflix original series. Robyn lives in Las Vegas, Nevada. You can visit her website at robyncarr.com.