



Monique Mulligan is an author, interviewer, and founder of the Stories on Stage program in Perth. A former journalist, news editor and publisher, she combines part-time work at an arts centre with freelance editing and novel writing. When she's not working you will usually find Monique a) writing b) reading c) cooking and d) taking photos for her cat's Instagram page. When she's socialising, she's usually behind a camera or in a corner hanging out with other introverts and making mental notes for stories. Find her at [moniquemulligan.com](http://moniquemulligan.com), or on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

"A journey through the country of the heart, through loss, memory and the truths we need to face in order to move forward." - KIM KELLY

"Monique Mulligan takes us on an emotional rollercoaster in this deeply moving exploration of a marriage in distress. Have tissues ready!" - LISA IRELAND

## BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

- Amy and Matt move to a small town in the hope of saving their marriage. Discuss the ways this move helped and hindered their marriage.
- Do you understand Amy's decision to hide any visual reminders of her daughter? What do you think she could have done differently to deal with her grief?
- In what ways does Matt bolster Amy?
- What moment in the story stood out to you when you realised or felt something?
- How do you see the roles of Ashlee and Irene in the story?
- While Amy gets stronger and more decisive as time goes on, Matt becomes weaker and less decisive. What is behind this? Did you understand his inner conflict when he was at the conference in Germany?
- Name two symbols you noticed in the text. How did they enhance your reading experience?
- Blackwood is a fictional town based on a real place in Western Australia's south west. Did the novel have a strong sense of place?
- The Around the World Supper Scenes add a sense of lightness and emotional time-out. What do you think of these scenes? How do they explore the nature of friendship? In what way does the supper club help Amy grow?
- What was the intention behind Una and Sharon's actions towards Amy?
- How did you see the minor characters like Bonnie, Frank and June?
- Una has strong ideas of what community means. Do you agree with them? What do you think it really means to be part of a community?
- Discuss the healing power of food in this novel.
- What did you think of the ending?