

# THE WOMEN by Kristin Hannah

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## Book Club Questions

1. How did Frankie's decision to serve as an Army nurse in Vietnam impact her life trajectory? Do you think she would have had an easier path if she conformed to her family's expectations?
2. Discuss the bonds of friendship that developed between Frankie, Barb, and Ethel. How did their friendship help them survive the war and cope with its aftermath?
3. How did Frankie's views on war, heroism, and women's roles change from the beginning of the book to the end? What key events prompted these changes?
4. Discuss the treatment of nurses when they returned from Vietnam. Were you surprised by the lack of support and recognition they received as veterans? Why do you think that was the case?
5. What did you think about Frankie's romantic relationships throughout the book? Why did she repeatedly get involved with married men?
6. How did Frankie's PTSD manifest itself when she returned from Vietnam? Do you think her struggles with PTSD and addiction were portrayed realistically?
7. What role did Frankie's family play in her homecoming experience? Do you think they should have been more supportive of her? Why weren't they?
8. Did you live through any of the Vietnam War? If not, how familiar with the era were you before reading this novel? How does the book capture the political and social climate in America during the Vietnam War era?
9. What did you think about the ending of Frankie's story? Was it satisfying? Realistic? Hopeful? Discuss.
10. What specific scenes or moments from the book made the biggest emotional impact on you as a reader? Why?
11. How does Frankie's story add to our understanding of women's experiences in 20th century wars? How does it compare to other war stories you've read?

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