

TRIPLICITY by J Mercer | *Discussion Questions*

1. Are you new to this genre? If so, what did you enjoy, or not enjoy, about it?
2. How did it feel different than what you normally read?
3. Did you have any expectations of this book going in? Were those expectations met? Why or why not?
4. Were there elements of the story (such as point of view or the timeline) that you particularly enjoyed?
5. Is there anything you would have changed? Any plot points not resolved to your satisfaction, or gaps you wish the author would have filled in?
6. Did you feel like the narrators were credible/reliable? Or do you feel like they were not only lying to each other, but also to the reader/themselves?
7. Which character did you relate to the most, and what was it about them that you connected with?
8. I've found readers are very polarized on favoring Jesse or Isaiah, on who Navy should end up with - who were you rooting for, and why? Did that change throughout the book?
9. Regardless of who you were rooting for, did you agree with Isaiah that he and Navy were the perfect match? He compares who they are, and how they are so similar, as if he were looking at their characteristics on paper: *"The way I figured it, we were perfect for each other. She wore jeans and white tees every day; I wore jeans and my hat. She lost a dad; I'd lost a dad and a mom. She was a nomad; I was a rancher."*
10. Which character do you feel changed the most throughout the story? And who do you think didn't change at all?
11. Did your opinions of the characters change throughout the book? What particular turning points do you remember changing things for you?
12. If you could have only heard this story from one point of view, which character would you pick and why?
13. Did you pick out any themes throughout the book?*
14. Did you pick up on any larger metaphors, such as what the cruise itself symbolized (being adrift on a boat)?**
15. What feelings did this book evoke for you?
16. How did you feel about the ending? Was it an overall satisfying read?
17. What was your favorite quote, passage, or scene?

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The theme of perception was the seed of this novel - Anais Nin said "We don't see the world as it is, we see it as we are." And obviously, the quote in the beginning of the book itself, "There are three sides to every story - yours, mine, and the truth."

These characters, personality-wise, are also the least informed by peer pressure of probably any book I will ever write - and that theme of self-awareness and acceptance is at odds here with the lies they tell and the way their world shifts.

Home was also a minor theme, as they all have an idea of what home is/was/should be, and here on vacation - away from home - they are having to reimagine that.

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The setting of being adrift on a ship works nicely (and worked after-the-fact if I'm being honest) with how they are all unmoored from their life during this novel: Isaiah and his ranch; Jesse and his mother; Navy and the truth/reality of her life/past.