

Tom Lake

Cut along the dashed lines and pass the cards around the table.

WARM-UP

1

What were you wearing, drinking, or doing while you read this book? Did it become a cozy companion?

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WARM-UP

2

Was there a scene that made you want to call your mom, your sister, or a long-ago friend?

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DISCUSSION

3

Lara tells her daughters a version of her past. What family story have you heard told so many times it almost feels like your own memory?

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DISCUSSION

4

The cherry orchard becomes a kind of haven during a hard time. Where is your version of that place, real or imagined?

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DISCUSSION

5

How did the summer-at-Tom-Lake sections make you feel compared to the present-day orchard chapters? Which did you want to linger in longer?

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DISCUSSION

6

Patchett writes so warmly about ordinary tasks like picking fruit and making meals. What everyday rituals comfort you the way the orchard work comforts this family?

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DEEP

7

Lara seems genuinely content with the life she chose, even knowing what she gave up. What does her quiet contentment stir in you about your own choices?

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DEEP

8

Mothers usually edit their stories for their children. What did you feel about the things Lara shares, holds back, or softens, and how did that land for you personally?

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