

Reading Group Guide

Come Home

1. Would you consider Ahmed's choice to leave with Alex to be either "right" or "wrong"?
2. Do you think Ahmed displayed "weakness" when he leaves for Egypt with Alex? Or is it "confusion" over his allegiance—his family in Egypt vs his wife in America? Is this cultural confusion inherent in most multi-cultural couples? Even in those where one partner has spent many years immersed in the other's culture?
3. Were you surprised by the seeming lack of communication between Nicole and Ahmed on an emotional level whereas on a professional and social level they seemed fine?
4. Nicole's family's support after the abduction leans heavily on her twin sister and her sister's husband. Did you think this was fair? Pulling Natalie out of her crisis at work? Bringing Rob into a SWAT team environment?
5. Taking Alex to Monrovia was a radical means to bring Ahmed under control. What options did Ahmed have once his brother's control had been so firmly established? What could he have done at that point?
6. Did it surprise you when Natalie ended up in Montevideo? Is this an example of twin-bonding? How one looks after the other—no matter what.
7. Jafari is ready to take over the family and its wealth, uncontested, he believes, until younger brother Seth shows up. What was Seth's motivation? Jealousy? Greed? Power?
8. What is your opinion on Ahmed's mother and father and his sisters in relationship to Alex? To Nicole? Could they have played a more proactive role in protecting him?
9. Unforeseen repercussion preclude this question: but could Ahmed and Nicole ever have resumed a happy marriage? And will five-year-old Alex be okay?