

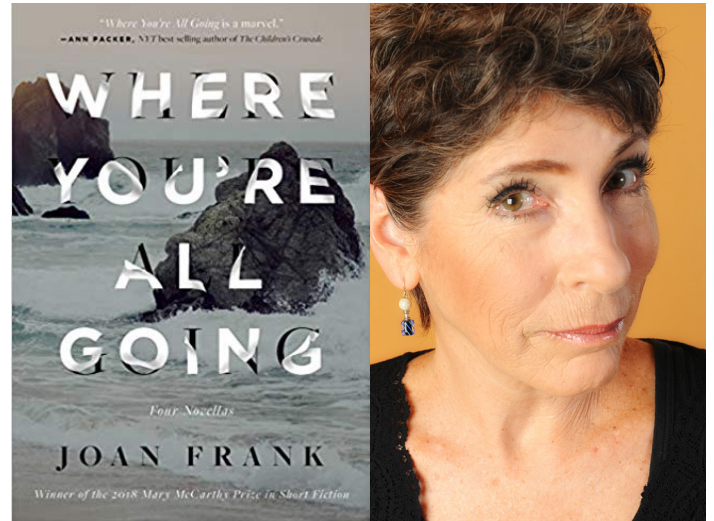


WHERE YOU'RE ALL GOING

JOAN FRANK
READER'S GUIDE

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Cavatina for Passenger X: What do the respective paths of Rory, Elwyn, their son Cam, and friend Leonard Jeong, seem to imply about the trajectories of human lives?
2. Cavatina for Passenger X: Do you think aging changes our overviews of life and living, and our perceptions of others? If so, how?
3. Biting the Moon: How does the news of Felix's death shape the narrator's retrospective understanding of her long-ago affair with him?
4. Biting the Moon: What do you sense to finally be narrator's main regret about her affair with Felix?
5. Open Says Me: How do you see Frannie's world view (and her place in it) shifting, in the course of this story?
6. Open Says Me: What do you think Vinnie thinks of Fran? Do you agree with him?
7. Open Says Me: After Fran glimpses the baby lizard and considers its life and genesis, she thinks of a line from a poem. What does the quoted line suggest to you?
8. Where You're All Going: Does this story affect your assumptions about money and inherited wealth? If not, why not? If so, how?
9. Where You're All Going: How do seasons and landscape (place) infuse this story? What story do they seem to tell?



10. Where You're All Going: What do you locate, in this story, as the central source of the narrator's shock and surprise? Do you agree?

WRITING EXERCISES

1. Write the secret story behind a love affair you had, or wish you'd had.
2. Write the story of a comeuppance you fantasize for someone who has long driven you mad, and see where that story takes you. (I almost guarantee you will be surprised.)
3. Describe the vision that a particular piece of music evokes for you--then see whether a story may be pulsing at that image's heart. (A main street in a foreign village, for example--who dwells behind those shuttered windows? What history happened between them? What happens next?)

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The Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, supports Sarabande Books with state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.