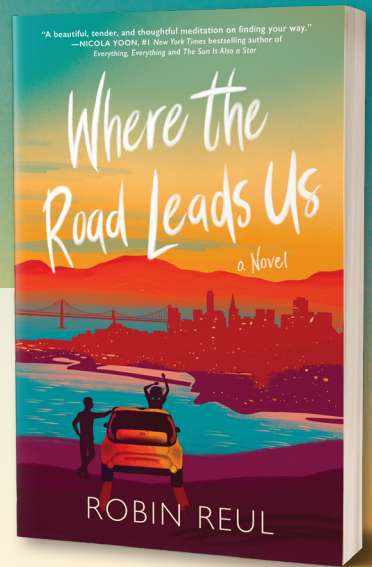


Where the Road Leads Us

DISCUSSION GUIDE



ABOUT WHERE THE ROAD LEADS US

SOMETIMES THE BEST PATH IS THE UNEXPECTED ONE.

Jack is on the verge of leaving for college, but before he does, he wants to track down his estranged brother, Alex, and find some closure in the wake of their father's death. Meanwhile, Hallie has just found out some upsetting news about a friend in Oregon, and she has a small window to go see him before it's too late.

Jack and Hallie are practically strangers. They shared a class together years ago and haven't seen each other since, though they have more in common than they'd ever imagine. And when fate puts them into the same rideshare to the bus terminal, it kicks off an unconventional and hysterical adventure that may lead them to their own true selves...and maybe to each other.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ROBIN REUL has been writing since she was in early elementary school, when she used to make her own book club flyers for her classmates and then pen them original stories. Though she grew up on movie sets and worked for many years in the film and television industry both as an actress and in motion picture development, she ultimately decided to focus her attention on writing young adult novels. She lives in Los Angeles suburbia.

PRAISE FOR WHERE THE ROAD LEADS US

"Anyone who has faced loss and uncertainty in their life will relate to this emotionally honest, hopeful book." —**MISA SUGIURA**, author of *It's Not Like It's a Secret* and *This Time Will Be Different*

"Where the Road Leads Us envelops you the way the very best stories do. I would follow Jack and Hallie—and author Robin Reul—anywhere." —**JENNIFER NIVEN**, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *All the Bright Places*

"I couldn't put it down." —**JEFF GARVIN**, author of *Lambda Literary Award* finalist *Symptoms of Being Human*

"A beautiful, tender, and thoughtful meditation on finding your way through the loneliness of grief back to hope." —**NICOLA YOON**, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Everything, Everything* and *The Sun Is Also a Star*

"Robin Reul tackles tough topics with a nuanced, often hilarious, touch. A lovely, compassionate, and compulsive read." —**KATHLEEN GLASGOW**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Girl in Pieces* and *How to Make Friends with the Dark*

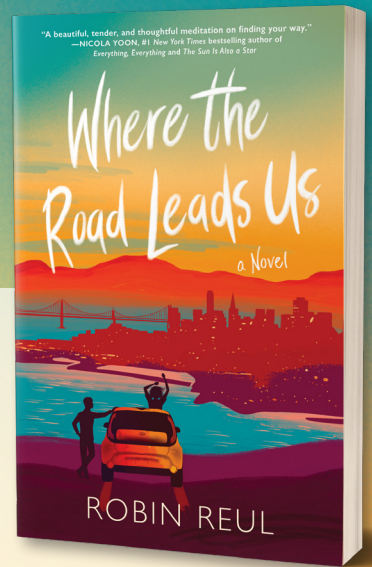
"A fun and thought-provoking read for mid-size or larger collections." —**SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL**

"Reul presents a fresh take on serendipitous encounters... A feel-good story with depth." —**KIRKUS REVIEWS**

"Reul...mixes appealing banter and vulnerability to tell a story of two teenagers who are trying to do their best under difficult circumstances." —**PUBLISHERS WEEKLY**

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DISCUSSION GUIDE QUESTIONS

1. Hallie and Jack and Oscar's meeting is serendipitous, and they feel as if their paths have intersected at that time for a reason to put them on the path where they need to be. Do you believe everything happens for a reason? How much control do you think we have over our destinies? Do you believe in fate?
2. What are some of the different ways the characters in the book deal with grief and loss? (Jack, Hallie, Jack's mom, Oscar, Owen, Alex, etc.)
3. How do you think the differences in Jack's and Hallie's backgrounds affect or shape the ways they see themselves, the world, and their places in it? How are the issues they are struggling with different and also similar?
4. Do you think it's realistic for most people to have their whole lives figured out by age eighteen?
5. Hallie and Jack both believe in signs from the universe. What are some of the signs they see or experience in the story that propel them to make decisions or feel validated in decisions they have made?
6. Hallie and Jack have a building romantic tension between them although they never kiss. Did you find their "connection" any more or less real without it? Why or why not? What do you think happens between them after the story ends?
7. Hallie talks to Jack and Oscar about her belief that "we are the sum of our choices." What does she mean by this? What key choices do Jack and Hallie make that shape who they become by the end of the story? In what ways have they changed since that moment they first saw each other at the Pancake Shack?
8. Despite how upsetting the circumstances of their parting were, their subsequent estrangement, and his flight leaving in twenty-four hours, why do you think it became so important to Jack to see Alex? What effect do you think their reconnection had on each other?
9. How do you think Jack and Hallie might have related to each other differently if they had agreed to keep in touch?
10. Explore the different ways the theme of letting go plays out throughout the novel.