

Reading Group Guide for
SHADOW MAN
by Jeffrey Fleishman

Note: Before your group begins discussing *Shadow Man*, invite each member to take one minute to present his or her general impression of the book, without interruption or comments from the other members. This preamble to group discussion provides an opportunity for everyone to voice their opinion, and does not hinder the discussion that follows.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Describe the relationship between Jim and Kurt.
2. Discuss the narrative points when Vera went from enchanting storyteller to dangerously delusional.
3. What role does Jim's dead mother play?
4. What does Jim's journey with Kurt and Vera to Virginia Beach symbolize?
5. How does the relationship between Kurt and Vera affect Jim, if indeed it does?
6. The lady in white hovers at the edge of James' recollections. What kept her so composed?
7. What do you think of the depiction of early onset Alzheimer's from James' point of view? Is this how you would imagine it to be?
8. Discuss the bonds that held Eva and James together as they chased newspaper stories across the world. Does anything remain of those original bonds?
9. When Eva left James in the next to last chapter, did you think that she would ever return?
10. What part does Alice play in the coming-of-age narrative that is Jim's only remaining memory?
11. Was there ever a man from Marrakesh, and if so, how much of Vera's story seems to be true?
12. Are we the sum of our memories, and what happens to us when they're gone?
13. What are the similarities and contrasts between the central female characters - Vera, Eva and the lady in white?
14. Was the novel redemptive, or in the end were James and those who loved him doomed to a single memory?