

# BONNIE SCHROEDER

## **WRITE MY NAME ON THE SKY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. The book's title is a metaphor for ambition, and many of the characters hold ambitions that, when realized, conflict with the goals of others close to them. Are there people in your own life for whom this is true? What was the outcome?
2. Another theme running through the book is that of one person rescuing another. Jack saves Kate several times in the story; even after he's gone, how does he pull off one last rescue? Kate saves Ryder at least twice, but how does Jack's observation that "You can't save somebody who doesn't want to be saved" figure into this? Does Ryder save anyone? How? Could Kate have saved Jack from his fate?
3. Kate often identifies herself as "Jack Morrison's wife." Who does she become when she is no longer in that role? Or does she ever completely transcend it? Should she?
4. Ryder is a recurring character throughout the book. How does he act as a catalyst for some of the events in the story?
5. Did you have a favorite character? Did any of them seem more real and/or sympathetic to you? Why do you think that was?
6. Jack seems to think that artists are a special class of people with rules and entitlements of their own. Do you agree with his perspective? Have you ever known anyone who thought they were better than everyone else? How did that make you feel? How did Jack's attitude make you feel about him?
7. How did you experience the book? Did it pull you into that world right away, or did it take some time? Did the world eventually seem real to you? Did it mirror any of your own experiences?
8. Is the ending satisfying? Would you have changed it? How?