

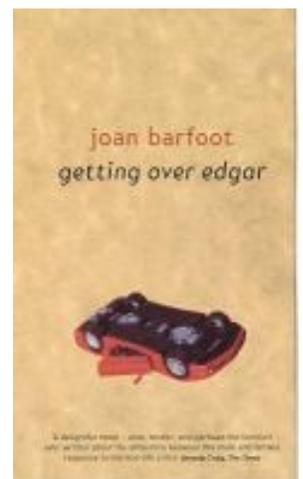


Getting Over Edgar

Joan Barfoot

Discussion Questions

1. How did you experience the book? Were you engaged immediately, or did it take you a while to "get into it"? How did you feel reading it—amused, sad, disturbed, confused, bored...?
2. Describe the main characters—personality traits, motivations, and inner qualities. Why do characters do what they do? Are their actions justified? Describe the dynamics between characters (in a marriage, family, or friendship). How has the past shaped their lives?
3. Are the main characters dynamic—changing or maturing by the end of the book? Do they learn about themselves, how the world works and their role in it?
4. Discuss the plot. Is it engaging—do you find the story interesting? Is this a plot-driven book—a fast-paced page-turner? Does the plot unfold slowly with a focus on character? Were you surprised by complications, twists & turns? Did you find the plot predictable, even formulaic?
5. Talk about the book's structure. Does the time-line move forward chronologically? Does time shift back & forth from past to present? Is there a single viewpoint or shifting viewpoints? What difference does the structure make in the way you read or understand the book?
7. What passages strike you as insightful, even profound? Perhaps a bit of dialog that's funny or poignant or that encapsulates a character? Maybe there's a particular comment that states the book's thematic concerns?
8. Is the ending satisfying? If so, why? If not, why not...and how would you change it?





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About the Author

Joan Barfoot is an award-winning novelist whose work has been compared internationally with that of Anne Tyler, Carol Shields, Margaret Drabble and Margaret Atwood. Her novels include *Luck* in 2005, nominated for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, as well as *Abra*, which won the Books in Canada first novels award, *Dancing in the Dark*, which became an award-winning Canadian entry in the Cannes and Toronto Film Festivals, *Duet for Three*, *Family News*, *Plain Jane*, *Charlotte and Claudia* *Keeping in Touch*, *Some Things About Flying*, and *Getting Over Edgar*. Her 2001 novel, *Critical Injuries*, was longlisted for the 2002 Man Booker Prize and shortlisted for the 2001 Trillium Book Award. In 1992 she was given the Marian Engel Award. Also a journalist during much of her career, she lives in London, Ontario, Canada.