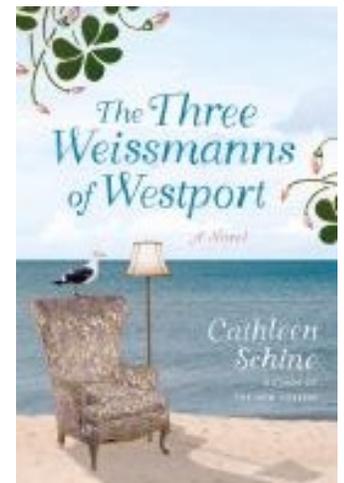




The Three Weissmanns of Westport Cathleen Schine

Discussion Questions

1. How do Betty and her daughters relate to men? Do the three women have the same expectations about love and relationships?
2. In *Sense and Sensibility*, Mrs. Dashwood does her best to help her family thrive despite dwindling fortunes. What challenges do women still face in such situations, even with the cultural changes that have taken place since Jane Austen was writing?
3. The fact that Miranda and Annie are not Joseph's biological children also mirrors Austen's plot. Would Joseph have handled the divorce differently if the girls had been his biological daughters?
4. Is Frederick a good father to Gwen and Evan? What stokes Annie's attraction to him throughout the novel?
5. What accounts for the similarities and differences between Annie and Miranda? Are both women simply driven by their temperaments, or have they shaped each other's personalities throughout their lives? How does their relationship compare to yours with your own siblings?
6. Schine's work often blends humour with misfortune, such as Miranda's undoing by authors who turn out to be plagiarists and extreme fabricators. What other aspects of the novel capture the tragicomic way life unfolds?
7. Why is it so hard for Joseph to understand why his stepdaughters are mad at him? Why does he prefer Felicity to Betty? Discuss the revelations about Amber. In what way is her romantic situation similar to Felicity's?
8. Ultimately, how do the Weissmanns reconcile sense with sensibility? Who are the book's most rational characters? Who is the most emotional?
9. What makes Roberts remarkable (eventually)? Who are the overlooked "characters" in your life story?
10. What aspects of the ending surprised you the most? What had you predicted for Betty, and for Leanne? Do the novel's closing scenes reflect an Austen ending?





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About the Author

Cathleen Schine is the author of the internationally best-selling novels *The Love Letter*, which was made into a movie starring Kate Capshaw, and *Rameau's Niece*, which was also made into a movie (The Misadventures of Margaret), starring Parker Posey. Schine's other novels are *Alice in Bed*, *To the Bird House*, *The Evolution of Jane*, *She is Me*, *The New Yorkers*, *The Three Weissmanns of Westport*, *Fin & Lady* and *They May Not Mean To, But They Do*, her new novel coming out next month. In addition to novels she has written articles for The New Yorker, The New York Review of Books, The New York Times Sunday Magazine, and The New York Times Book Review, among other publications. Her essays have been included in *Best American Essays 2005*, *Fierce Pajamas*, an Anthology of New Yorker Humour, and *The Big New Yorker Book of Dogs*. She grew up in Westport, Ct. and lives in Venice, California.

This book is available for download as an eBook and an eAudiobook. For more information, please visit lpl.overdrive.com or call 519-661-4600.