

Reading Group Questions

- At the start of each chapter, Isabel has included a menu from a dinner she shared with Edward. She often goes into great detail about Edward's processes and the technicalities of his recipes. Did you enjoy these details? Did you find them evocative? Would you try to replicate them?
- The two grow apart slightly when Isabel falls in love, but their friendship is always a source of comfort. How did you see the relationship between Isabel and Edward changing throughout the book?
- Edward's tastes and customs are certainly of a time and a place. How did you respond to the scenes where he takes Isabel shopping, comments on her choice of partner, or instructs her on how to wear her hair and makeup?

- 'He was teaching me the art of patience, the luxury of slowing down and taking time to think through everything I did'. Much of what Isabel learns from Edward sounds like what we term 'mindfulness'. Did this make you reassess the way you live your own life?
- Death brought Isabel and Edward together, and with his advanced age, Isabel knows that death will separate them sooner than in her other friendships. This is most prominent when Edward falls ill in Chapter 14. What effect do you think this had on their friendship, if any?
- 'And, as I had come to realize, Edward was still a man for whom nothing was impossible'. Edward's age does not stop him from living the life he wants to. How did Dinner with Edward make you feel about the older people in your life? How did it make you feel about your own ageing?
- In a lovely scene at the end of the book, Isabel brings together the friends Edward has gathered over the years from all over the world. What power do you think platonic friendship has in our society?