

- 1 Which stories in the book stood out most to you? Why?
- 2 How do we form our opinions and images of what a refugee is? How can we, as readers, shift away from those perceptions to a space of openness and listening?
- 3 What did you learn from this book that you didn't know before—perhaps about another culture, or about the asylum process?
- 4 Everything in this book holds such an immense power. From something (seemingly) minute—like the story about the best dessert in America being a blue slushie—to such a massive tragedy as the conclusion of Kambiz's journey, there is nothing without impact. Discuss Dina's writing style and what it might have taken to craft a book so potent.
- 5 As Dina expresses, officials in each country have different expectations, concerns, and sympathies. With these varying perspectives in mind, talk about the complexity of crafting the refugee narrative.
- 6 What did you make of Dina's mother's conversion and the risk it put on her family? Is there anything you believe so passionately that you would risk your own life for it, considering the danger it might pose to your loved ones?
- 7 Did the book change your thoughts on what would constitute the necessity of flight to another land? Has it changed your viewpoint on the refugee experience in any way?
- 8 In the book, the author talks about her favorite day as an American being the day of the jubilant citizenship ceremony. What about that day do you think was so powerful, elevating it above many other days full of confounding dichotomy? Think about your own life—what has been your own favorite day in your current country of residence? Was there any time you didn't feel so proud of your country?
- 9 Does the West still deserve its reputation as the land of opportunity? Why or why not?
- 10 Talk about your experience with refugees in your own community (or of being a refugee in a particular city). Do you feel your area welcomes refugees with open arms? If not, after reading the book (or from your own experience) what changes would you like to see?
- 11 Where do you think this book fits in the national conversation around refugees and immigration? Does it shift your perception, or how you will respond in those conversations moving forward?

