



The Lost Girls

By Jennifer Baggett
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Introduction

With their 28th birthdays looming, Jennifer Baggett, Holly C. Corbett, and Amanda Pressner are quickly rocketing towards management positions, mortgages, and marriage, but all share a similar fear: Is this what they want, or what they think they should want? Feeling in serious need of perspective, they decide to leave it all behind, quit their jobs, and begin an epic search for meaning and enlightenment. Traveling 60,000 miles around the world, from the mountains and jungles of South America to the beaches of Australia, passing through Kenya, India, Southeast Asia, and New Zealand along the way, the trio not only finds themselves, but a lifelong friendship. Ultimately, theirs is a story of true sisterhood—a bond forged by exotic illnesses, cockroach-infested trains, Maasai tribal initiation ceremonies, long distance break-ups, whirlwind romances, and everything in the world in between.

Questions for Discussion

1. Did you find the format of the book—each Lost Girl taking her turn telling the story—to be interesting or confusing? Were you able to tell which narrator was speaking without referencing the guide at the bottom of the page?
2. At one point during the trip, Jen, Holly and Amanda have a disagreement over their travel style—staying in more economical hostel dorms versus more private rooms. If you had \$2,000 to spend on a trip, would you rather stay on the road for a month in low budget accommodations, one week in at a luxurious hotel or somewhere in between? Why?
3. Considering the current state of the economy, would you be willing to leave your job for two weeks or more to travel? Would you be worried that your job might not be waiting for you when you return?
4. Which of the three main characters in the book did you most identify with, and why?
5. Do you think that the Lost Girls made any mistakes in the way that they traveled? What were they? How might you do things differently if you had the chance to travel for so long?
6. Jen, Holly and Amanda all split up and traveled solo for a period of time (Amanda did this after Australia). Do you think that you'd enjoy traveling alone? Why or why not? Who would be your best travel partner, and why?
7. If you could choose any country or region to visit, which one would it be?
8. Jen always wanted to volunteer in Kenya, Holly wanted to study yoga and meditation at an Ashram, and Amanda wanted to practice Spanish in Latin America. If you could live out your real-life bucket list (the thing you absolutely have to see or do in life) name three things that would be on it.
9. What did you learn from *The Lost Girls* book?
10. Other than traveling, what kind of activities do you do to find your passions and live a more connected life?
11. After reading the book, are there any places that the LG's traveled to that peaked your interest now that wouldn't have before? What changed your mind?
12. Throughout the *Lost Girls* Amanda, Holly and Jen tried new experiences like bungee jumping in Australia, tubing down a river in Laos and meditation in India. Do you think people are more open to new experiences when they travel? And why?
13. Throughout the novel the girls maintain a balanced friendship that grows stronger with each destination. When searching for the ideal travel partner what is important to consider?

About the Author

In 2006, *The Lost Girls*' Amanda Pressner, Jennifer Baggett and Holly Corbett left their jobs, loved ones, apartments and everything familiar behind in New York City to embark on a year-long search for adventure and inspiration. Journeying across four continents and more than a dozen countries, they shared their experiences with other aspiring vagabonds on their website, LostGirlsWorld.com. Currently, all three Lost Girls reside in New York (Holly commutes from Upstate), where between working on their second book and turning their website into an online travel magazine, they still find the time to take trips as a trio.