



Reading Group Discussion Guide

THE UNEXPECTED SPY

Tracy Walder with Jessica Anya Blau

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1. Could you have done the work that Tracy did? Why or why not?
2. Tracy is leading her own revolution as she tries to put women in positions of power and influence by teaching at a girl's school. What is your revolution and how would you or are you implementing it?
3. Why do you feel that Tracy's career path was unexpected?
4. There are marked differences between how Tracy was treated when she was in the CIA and FBI. Did this surprise you? Have you experienced similar gender biases in your own workplace? What fields do you think this is still a problem in?
5. Tracy does not believe that EIT (torture) works but understands why it was being used. How do you feel about EIT? Do you believe that certain acts of which we disapprove can be necessary when the circumstances change, as they did after September 11th?
6. What do you think of Tracy's choice to stay with the CIA and work harder after the information she had gathered had been altered and falsified?
7. Because of national security issues, the details and specifics of Tracy's heroic acts can not be described in the book. How would you feel about saving thousands, or hundreds of thousands, of lives if you were never able to get credit or public praise for it?
8. While Tracy was in the CIA, she could never talk about her work with anyone outside of the agency, or with anyone below her security clearance within the agency. Would you find it hard to work a 70-hour week and not talk about what you were doing with your family or friends?
9. Tracy came out of her experience in the CIA with greater respect for people of different religions and cultures. If you came face-to-face with the most sinister evil minds of foreign cultures, as Tracy did, do you think you would leave that experience with a stronger sense of compassion and humanity?
10. Tracy is unusually fearless and was able to put her focus and energy on saving the greatest number of lives while not worrying about her individual life. Do you think this is something all people can do when called to action? Or does it take a certain type of person? Are you this type of person?
11. If you were Tracy and could go back in time, is there anything that you would do differently than she?