

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do we read memoirs? What qualities are you looking for in one?
2. *Coming Ashore* is very much a coming-of-age story: what moments or people do you think had the greatest impact on the course of Cathy's life?
3. As Cathy lives in three different countries, she is positioned as a perpetual outsider. What advantages does that perspective give her in telling the story? Geography aside, in what other ways does Cathy feel like an outsider?
4. How would Clive describe Cathy? What about one of the pillars of salt, or perhaps Ginger?
5. Major world events like the moon landing pop up throughout *Coming Ashore*. Do those events reflect what's going on in Cathy's life at the time? Are there major world events that mark important periods in your life?

6. Though Cathy's parents don't appear much in *Coming Ashore*, in what ways do they continue to influence Cathy throughout the book?
7. When Cathy encounters feminism in her consciousness-raising group, she thinks it's all rather obvious. What evidence can you find of Cathy's feminist leanings earlier in the book?
8. Though Cathy isn't involved in the heavy politics of *After the Falls*, how does she make her politics known in *Coming Ashore*?
9. If you had to describe *Coming Ashore* to someone using one story from the book, which would it be? Why?
10. At the end of the book, Cathy declares that she had been seeking the unconditional love of her childhood her whole life. Do you think that is everyone's goal? Are there other aspects of her childhood she is trying to hold on to?