

The Woman in Cabin 10 Discussion Questions

by Ruth Ware

Author Bio: (from Fantastic Fiction & Ruth Ware Website)

Ruth Ware (b. 1977) grew up in Lewes, in East Sussex. After graduating from Manchester University she moved to Paris, before settling in north London. She has worked as a waitress, a bookseller, a teacher of English as a foreign language and a press officer. She is married and has two children.



Characters:

- **Laurie (Lo) Blacklock** – Journalist for the travel magazine, Velocity. Received a press pass for maiden voyage of the cruise ship, Aurora. Lives in London. Her flat was broken into the week before cruise. Dating Judah Lewis.
- **Aurora Borealis** – Small luxurious cruise liner. Will hold around 20 passengers in 10 cabins. All cabins are named for Norwegian scientists. Owned by Lord Bullmer.
- **Alexander Belhomme** – Passenger on the Aurora. Travel Journalist. Specializes in food reporting.
- **Lord Bullmer** – Director of the Northern Lights Company. Was well-off as a child but became homeless when his father died. Went to Oxford and married Anne Lungstad, who was a Norwegian heiress. Made his own money with a dotcom startup. Owns the Aurora Borealis cruise liner.
- **Lady Anne Lungstad Bullmer** – Married to Lord Bullmer. Heiress from Norway. Has cancer. Just finished chemotherapy and is possibly in remission.
- **Camilla Lichman, Josef, Karla, Eva** – Steward and Stewardesses on the Aurora.
- **Carrie** – Waitress and budding actress.
- **Archer Fenlan** – Passenger on the Aurora. Travel writer known for “Extreme Travel.”
- **Ben Howard** – Passenger on the Aurora. Travel reporter. Used to work with Lo. He is Lo’s ex-boyfriend.
- **Chloe (Wylde) Jenssen** – Ex-model. Married to Lars Jenssen, a financier.
- **Cole Lederer** – Professional photographer. Usually does environmental photography. Hired to do a session on the Aurora as a travel photographer. Handsome. In the midst of a divorce.
- **Judah Lewis** – Lo’s boyfriend. American foreign war correspondent. Travels a great deal for work. Has a job offer in New York.
- **Johann Nilsson** – Head of Aurora security. Does not believe Anne’s account.
- **Rowan** – Lo’s boss at Velocity. Pregnant and on hospital mandated bed rest.
- **Tina West** – Passenger on the Aurora. Editor of the Vernean Times, travel magazine.

Discussion Questions:

1. Did you like the book? Why or why not?
2. This book is told from a first person point of view. Was it well done? Was it effective? Why or why not? How would this book have been different if told from another perspective?
3. What is the significance of the title, "The Woman in Cabin 10"? Did the title influence your reading of the novel? If so, how?
4. Did you find Lo (Laura) a likable, believable character? Why or why not?
5. After Lo's flat is burglarized, she calls Velocity's assistant features editor, Jenn. Lo says, "I told her what happened, making it sound funnier and more farcical than it really had been." Why do you think Lo underplays the break-in? Have you ever underplayed a significant event?
6. When Lo first enters the ship, she says, "I had a sudden disorienting image of the Aurora as a ship imprisoned in a bottle—tiny, perfect, isolated, and unreal." In what ways does this statement foreshadow the events that take place on the ship?
7. What's the effect of having Judah and Lo's e-mails and various news reports interspersed throughout Lo's narration? Did they help you better understand what's happening aboard the Aurora or did you find them distracting?
8. After the break in at her apartment, Lo is resistant to accepting help from Judah. Why do you think that is? Does her reticence have anything to do with her history of panic attacks? Do you think that she's right to be reluctant?
9. When Nilsson challenges Lo's claim that she's seen something happen in the cabin next to hers, she tells him, "Yes, someone broke into my flat. It has nothing to do with what I saw." Did you believe her? Did you think that the break-in made Lo more jumpy and distrustful?
10. Have you ever been in a situation where you are telling an unbelievable truth, but everyone thinks you are lying? How did it affect you?
11. What were your initial impressions of Bullmer? Did you like him or were you suspicious of him? After a prolonged conversation with Bullmer, Lo says, "I could see why [he] had got to where he had in life." Why does she think that?
12. Archer tells Lo that self-defense is "not about size, even a girl like you can overpower a man if you get the leverage right." Is Lo able to do so? What kind of leverage does she have? What different kinds of power and leverage do the people on the Aurora use when dealing with each other?
13. Do you believe Carrie's story?
14. How do Lo's feelings change as she gets to know Carrie? Did your opinion of Carrie change as you read?
15. Who do you think is ultimately responsible for what happened to Lo? Bullmer? Carrie? Lo?
16. Why do you think Carrie let Lo go?
17. Why did Lo have a change of heart at the end of the novel and decide to move to New York? Did that seem like a normal response?

18. What, if anything, should Lo do with the money she received?
19. Were you satisfied with the ending of the story? Why or why not?
20. Ware has written three + other novels. Will you read any of them?

References:

- Fantastic Fiction – <https://www.fantasticfiction.com/w/ruth-ware/>
- Lit Lovers – <http://www.litlovers.com/reading-guides/fiction/10720-woman-in-cabin-10-ware?start=3>
- Novelist – <http://web.b.ebscohost.com/novp/detail?vid=2&sid=fbfccee5-5781-4b1d-b587-dd2b66919722%40sessionmgr102&bdata=JnNpdGU9bm92cC1saXZI#UI=10490525&db=neh>
- Ruth Ware – <http://www.ruthware.com/>

Ruth Ware Books

- In a Dark, Dark Wood (2015)
- The Woman in Cabin 10 (2016)
 - The Lying Game (2017)
- The Death of Mrs. Westaway (2018)
 - The Turn of the Key (2019)

If you liked Woman in Cabin 10, try...

- Couple Next Door – Shari Lapena
- The Blue – Lucy Clark
- Woman in the Window – AJ Finn
- Watch Me Disappear – Janelle Brown
- Therapy – Sebastian Fitzek