

**Reading group questions: *The Road to California* by Louise Walters**

What do you think of the cover? It's the author's favourite among her own novels...

Did Joanna do the right thing in taking Ryan out of school?

And did she do the right thing in allowing Lex back into her life, and Ryan's?

Did you like Lex? Or was he too much of a womaniser? Was he ever to be trusted?

Did you like Joanna? She has been described as a character difficult to warm to...

What do you think is the central theme of the novel?

Did the final chapter surprise you?

What role do you think Joanna's textiles business, *The Road to California*, plays in the novel? Does her patchwork symbolise anything?

Did you think Joanna's post natal depression was well handled?

Ryan is clearly an autistic character, but this isn't made explicit until the end of the novel. Did that work for you? Did you guess or realise he is autistic? Why do you think Joanna is loathe to accept her son is autistic?