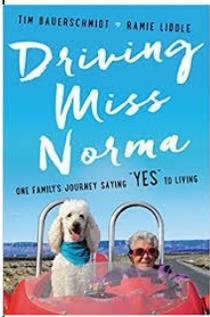




# Discussion Guide



## About the Book

Book Title: Driving Miss Norma

Author: Tim Bauerschmidt and Ramie Liddle

Published: HarperOne, 2017

Author Website: <https://www.missnorma.com/events>

Facebook: Driving Miss Norma

## Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. Have you ever lived a nomadic life like Tim and Ramie? If not, would you like to do that and if so, where would you want to go?
3. How did you feel about Norma's choice to go on the road instead of doing surgery and cancer treatment? Do you know anybody who has made a similar decision? Would you? Why or why not?
4. How did Tim and Ramie feel about the responsibility of caring for Norma? How did that evolve through the book? Have you ever cared for an older person? How was your experience like theirs? Different?
5. How does Norma's choice compare to life in a nursing home? Would you like more choices like this for older people? What would you have done in her place?
6. What stories did you most enjoy in the book? Have you been to any of the places they took Norma? How did their descriptions compare to your experience?
7. How did Tim, Ramie and Norma react to their growing celebrity status? Was this a positive or a negative?
8. If you could plan your own end of life trip, where would you want to go & with whom? Do you have a bucket list? If not, take time to craft one today!
9. Read over the MAMs comments on the book. Which of them do you most agree with and why?
10. In what ways, if any, will this book change your life or perspective?

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Enjoy these YouTube Videos to meet Tim, Ramie and Norma in person:

CBS EVENING NEWS: **Terminally-ill woman takes viral road trip** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SG3O9-BZJ0s>)

THE LIST TV SHOW: **Driving Miss Norma: 3 Life Lessons For Us All** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKcnFxOaDjA>)



**NANCY:** What a delightful book. I listened to this book while traveling, which made it come alive. I loved the authenticity of the voices, the great compassion of Tim and Ramie, the adventurous spirit of Norma. It made me so very happy to hear this story. I'm so glad that they journaled, their experiences. I'm grateful for the notoriety they experienced which helped them share their story more widely. The art of memoir writing is so important. We can learn so much from others. This book helps me think creatively about end of life issues. It encourages me to plan, and not settle for the status quo. Amazing story.



**SALLIE:** Yes, I just found this whole story so very good. That Norma and her husband took in two orphans and loved them like their own, that the children became such strong individuals, and then the way Tim gave back to his mother in her end times, all so good. And such a tribute to Norma and the love she gave to him. Not having any children, I'm not sure who could do this for me, but I might talk to my godchildren and make some plans.



**ABIGAIL:** Hey MAMs, I think we should spend some time developing bucket lists and start doing some of these things together. I loved Greece and Turkey, and I'm looking forward to our trip to Ireland in Nancy's next book. But, we're not getting any younger. Maybe we can develop a plan to do a MAMs closing chapter tour, if any of us become terminal. Let's plan this out. And we are going to need to get some of our kids to help out. Who's in?



**MOLLY:** Well, I'm glad I went through surgery and chemo when I got cancer! Not that it was much fun, but now I still have life ahead of me to work with the FARM and Sun Power house, and enjoy the MAMs and retirement with Tom. But if I had been 90 when I was diagnosed? Maybe I would be ready to pack my bags. You know, I was always taught to respect my elders, and I loved how Miss Norma was honored along the way. Loved the tribute to her as a Wave, too.



**PRISCILLA:** Bless their hearts. Such great love by Tim and Ramie to care for Norma that way. God will bless them for doing that. Actually, I think God is blessing them, don't you think? A book deal by a major publisher! They made it sound fun, but caregiving is hard work. If you read between the lines, you'll hear that. A real way to minister and love others.



**KATHARINE:** This helps raise so many questions about how we treat our aging and dying people. Too often they are warehoused away at great expense. I hope this book spurs discussion of alternatives. How can we honor, revere and celebrate elders in their last days? And I'm in, Abigail. Let's plan this for ourselves!



**JANE:** Loved, loved, loved Miss Norma! A hot air balloon ride at 90, beer and cake every day, saying yes to adventure. What a lady. And there she was, a WWII Navy Wave, out to see the world as a young'un' and then stayed home in Michigan the rest of her life. Loved that she got out again in her last chapter. Loved the story about President Ford and seeing her honored at the ship named after him. I'd like to go out like this. What a way to go.