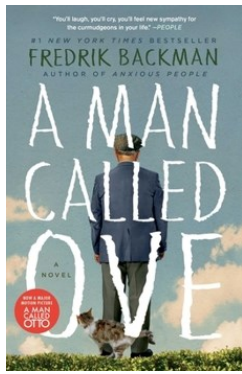




# Discussion Guide

## About the Book



A Man Called Ove

Author: Frederik Backman

Published: Atria Books, 2014

<https://fredrikbackmanbooks.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Backmanland>

## Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. Did you like the character of Ove? Why or why not?
3. What were Ove's rigidities? What are you rigid about? What rigidities do you experience in your family? How do they affect your life?
4. Was Ove serious about killing himself? How would you help someone considering suicide? Should it be illegal? Why or why not?
5. As a widower, Ove was lonely and missing his wife. Loneliness is an epidemic. What do you do to deal with your own loneliness? What can we do for others?
6. Would you call this book a comedy? Why or why not? If so, what were some of the most comic scenes for you?
7. Could "We need each other" be a theme for this book? In what ways did you see this in the book? In what ways do you see it in your own life?
8. How can a widow or widower best pay tribute to their departed spouse? What do you think you would do in that situation?
9. How did Ove help the people in his life? Was this intentional?
10. We all know our own grumpy old men. How do Ove's core values lead him to appear as such a cranky old coot, when he is in fact nothing of the sort? Which of these values do you agree or disagree with?
11. Read over the MAMs comments on this book. With whom do you agree/disagree and why?

## Listen to the author on YouTube

**Fredrik Backman on Creative Anxiety and Procrastination (3:03)**

**Fredrik Backman, Author of "A Man Called Ove" and "The Winners" Joins the National Writers Series (1:22:19)**



**NANCY:** What a wonderful, funny story that made me laugh and smile and find hope for the human race. Although at first I felt sorry for the man called Ove and worried he would kill himself, eventually I just gave in to the humor in each scene and enjoyed the quirky characters and triumph of people helping people.



**ABIGAIL:** I loved the good neighbor interactions in this book. It underscored how we need each other. Right now so many people complain about the new immigrants. As I watched the character of Parvaneh in this book, she is really Ove's savior. Perhaps if we would open ourselves to newcomers, we could be saved as well.



**SALLIE:** I loved, of course, the little girl in this book who cared about Ove unabashedly. Didn't he break through his reserves? And the picture which she obviously treasured? Kids are like this. You gotta keep some young people in your life as you get old! I do this with the kids of my former students.



**PRISCILLA:** Bless his heart. What a sad and peculiar man. He was so fortunate that his wife loved him so much. So tragic that he lost her. But on the other hand his motley group of neighbors took him in, or did he take them in, giving him a new lease on life.



**MOLLY:** I loved the scene where Ove was teaching Parvaneh to drive and she stalled at traffic light. Remember when the guys behind her started honking and yelling and Ove went out and scared their socks off? Go Ove! But I'm glad those guys didn't have guns.



**JANE:** I thought Ove's fixation on Saabs was rather ridiculous, but isn't that the way men can be with cars? My ex-husband was focused on his Jeep. The only car for him. Crazy. Capitalism creates this sort of thing, though. It's not all bad.



**KATHARINE:** I'm trying to figure out where this novel fits in to academia. Perhaps Psychology, to take a look at loneliness, grief and community? Or perhaps English and Writing to explore humor in writing? I think since there's a popular movie based on the book with Tom Hanks, students would love this.