



Summary

Frederick Fife was born with an extra helping of kindness in his heart. If he borrowed your car, he'd return it washed with a full tank of gas. The problem is there's nobody left in Fred's life to borrow from. At eighty-two, he's desperately lonely, broke, and on the brink of homelessness. But Fred's luck changes when, in a bizarre case of mistaken identity, he takes the place of grumpy Bernard Greer at the local nursing home. Now he has warm meals in his belly and a roof over his head—as long as his poker face is in better shape than his prostate and that his look-alike never turns up.

Denise Simms is stuck breathing the same disappointing air again and again. A middle-aged mom and caregiver at Bernard's facility, her crumbling marriage and daughter's health concerns are suffocating her joy for life. Wounded by her two-faced husband, she vows never to let a man deceive her again.

As Fred walks in Bernard's shoes, he leaves a trail of kindness behind him, fueling Denise's suspicions about his true identity. When unexpected truths are revealed, Fred and Denise rediscover their sense of purpose and learn how to return a broken life to mint condition.

Bittersweet and remarkably perceptive, *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife* is a hilarious, feel-good, clever novel about grief, forgiveness, redemption, and finding family.



About the author

Anna Johnston is a former baby, aspiring octogenarian and emerging Australian author with a love for the heartfelt and hilarious. She grew up in country Victoria before moving to Melbourne where she lives joyously with her husband and daughters by the beach. Anna left an imminent career in medicine to follow her heart into her grandfather's nursing home where she became the social support coordinator, taking great delight in shaking up the usual program. When injury left her unable to continue working in aged care, she began to write about it, channelling her love for older people onto the page. Anna has enjoyed a life-long passion for screenplay, theatre and creative ageing.

Courtesy of Penguin Random House

Discussion Questions

- Would you recommend this book to someone? Why or why not (or with what caveats)?
- What kind of reader would most enjoy this book?
- Did you find the author's writing style easy to read or hard to read? Why? How long did it take you to get into the book?
- Who was your favorite character? What character did you identify with the most? Were there any characters that you disliked? Why?
- Did any part of this book strike a particular emotion in you? Which part and what emotion did the book make you feel?
- What surprised you the most about the book?
- Was there any part of the plot or aspects of the characters that frustrated or upset you? If so, why?
- How thought-provoking did you find the book?
- Did the book change your opinion about anything, or did you learn something new from it?
- Did you have a favorite quote or quotes? If so, share which and why?
- From your point of view, what were the central themes of the book? How well do you think the author did at exploring them?
- Compare this book to other books you have read by the same author, or other books you have read covering the same or similar themes. How are they the same or different?
- How would you adapt this book into a movie? Who would you cast in the leading roles?