

## Discussion Questions for *The Holy Éclair*

1. In *The Holy Éclair*, Becky experiences a series of chance encounters with strangers which become sacred spaces for her. Have you experienced this? What chance encounter with a stranger became a sacred space that pointed you towards faith?
2. In *The Holy Éclair*, Becky has several experiences in which she finds a closeness to God by being immersed in beauty. Have you experienced God in beauty? Where and how?
3. When and where in your life have you felt closest to God? What was it about this time and place that helped this closeness happen? What might enable you to be closer to God right where you are now?
4. What personal events in your life have caused you to reassess or change your spiritual practices?
5. What do you think Becky learned about herself through painting? How did this help her in her relationship with God?
6. In her visit to Orcival, Becky realizes that she has figuratively chained herself to the church. What do you think this means? What do you think drives some believers to do this?
7. In *The Holy Éclair*, Becky's opinion on the value of rituals changes over time. She goes from being suspicious to curious, and even tries crossing herself, as she sees a Catholic friend do. By the end of the book, she recognizes the rituals of her own faith that were there all the time, acting as guide wires to God. How do you feel about ritual? What rituals of your faith do you hold dear? Are there rituals which you've never practiced that you find appealing?
8. One of Becky's early struggles once she moved to France was her inability to project the image she had always managed back in the States. She laments that she speaks French like a toddler and that she and her family seems to make a scene everywhere they go. How does this frustration help bring about the change that she needs to make spiritually?
9. During the book, Becky faces the truth that though she's always believed that God loves everyone, she has always acted as if (and perhaps believed deep down that) God has a secret extra special love for those people who work themselves to exhaustion on God's behalf. What are your thoughts on this? What would you say to Becky in France about this notion?
10. In *The Holy Éclair*, Becky learns the true meaning of grace and how to accept God's grace for herself. How well do you do this? Is it easier to give grace to others or to yourself? What areas of your life are missing God's forgiveness and grace?