

# Richard Paul Evans

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## Reading Group Discussion Guide

### *A Perfect Day*

1. Food has a recurring role in A Perfect Day, with many scenes taking place in Harlan family's kitchen or in a variety of restaurants, and many descriptions of a variety of different things to eat. In A Perfect Day, is food sometimes offered as an extension of love? As a source of comfort?
2. In trying to woo Robert as a client, Darren Scott makes many observations on the nature of success. Are his observations correct? Fair? Is there a difference?
3. In church, Robert thinks of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son and of the angel staying his knife. Are there parallels to be drawn between Robert's story and that of Abraham? Why or why not?
4. Michael tells Robert that the purpose of life is "learning how to love." Do you agree or do you think this is only part of the meaning?
5. In one of their discussions, Michael suggests to Robert that death and birth are very similar. What do you think? Discuss the ways in which they are similar and the ways in which they are different. Did you feel this way before reading this book?
6. In A Perfect Day, Michael's identity is revealed to Robert, but what do you think would have happened if it hadn't been? Angels are a recurrent theme in Richard Paul Evans' work. Do you believe in angels, and if so, what, to you, is an angel?
7. Robert and Allyson both grew up without their biological mothers. Do you think this influenced their relationship with their daughter, Carson?
8. How are Robert's reconciliations-with Camille, with Allyson, with his father, and with Stu, alike? How are they different?
9. In Chapter 60, Robert's reconciliation with his father changes the way he sees his father. "Somehow he looked different to me. Frailer perhaps. Vulnerable. More human." Can someone's appearance change with your opinion of him or her? If so, can you think of any examples of this in real life?
10. At the close of Chapter 66, Camille asks Robert, "Did I do the right thing." What do you think? Did she? Why or why not. Is the quest for one perfect day realistic? Why or why not? What would your 'perfect day' be?