

Discussion Questions for *Drawn by the Current* by Jocelyn Green

1. In chapter eleven, Olive realizes that “ignoring wounds didn’t mean they were not there.” Have you ever tried ignoring your own wounds or someone else’s? What was the result?
2. In chapter thirteen, we learn that Olive feels her job is to take care of everyone and that she feels valuable when she’s helping others. Can you relate to this? If not, what makes you feel valuable?
3. In chapter sixteen, Erik says, “You’re never as alone as you think.” In what ways have you found this to be true or not true?
4. In chapter nineteen, we learn that when Olive isn’t helping someone, she often feels invisible and overlooked. She wonders if her motives are selfish or selfless. Do you think it’s right or wrong to do a good thing because of how it makes you feel about yourself?
5. In chapter twenty-eight, Meg says, “One can live with scars, however constricting they may feel. But one cannot live long with open wounds.” What scars have you had to learn to live with? Do you have open wounds that still need tending?
6. In the same chapter, Leo says to Olive, “What we do is not the sum of who we are. Is your identity as a human being tied completely to your job?” Later, Meg says, “Who you are is bigger than what you do.” How much of your identity is tied to your work? What else do you base your identity on?
7. During the climax in chapter thirty-one, Olive and Claire need to leave the ship, but the way they came in is closed to them. They need to take a fall in order to escape. Think back over some hard situations you’ve had in your own life. What risks did you take in order to improve your circumstances?
8. In chapter thirty-two, it reads, “Just because she couldn’t see them through the fog didn’t mean they were not there.” This refers to the docks that would give Olive and Claire safety. Has there been a time in your life when help was near and you just couldn’t see it? What happened?
9. The end of the same chapter contains these lines: “Surviving trauma wasn’t the end of the story. It was only the beginning.” What new beginnings have you experienced after surviving some kind of trauma or challenge?
10. The epilogue states, “By grace they survived, and by grace Olive had learned to accept that. Grace was their safe harbor.” When and how has grace been a safe harbor for you?