

Plane of the Ecliptic
Book Club Discussion Questions

- 1) What are some of the events that make Maggie wonder if she's going crazy?
- 2) Why does Maggie come to simultaneously look forward to *and* fear the dreams about the Scottish girls? Is it possible to dream a continuing story? Is it possible for two people to have identical dreams on the same night?
- 3) How does Claire's relationship with Bill help and/or hinder Maggie's ability to deal with her own situation?
- 4) How is Joey both a student and a teacher to Maggie?
- 5) As Julia grows up, how do her reactions to the events and dreams compare with Maggie's reactions?
- 6) How are Julia and Maggie's personalities like Gillian and Rebecca's? How are their situations similar?
- 7) Explain how Reverend Chamberlain and Joey work together with their religious and scientific viewpoints. What experiences have you had where religion and science seem to fit together?
- 8) Discuss the meaning of the title, *Plane of the Ecliptic*. Name some instances in the story where time and place are significant. Is perfect timing the same as coincidence? Is it the same as fate? Luck?
- 9) Do you think it's possible for "spirits" to communicate with living people through dreams? Why or why not? What beliefs or experiences influenced your opinion?
- 10) Why was it necessary for Maggie and Julia to go to Scotland and meet Dona and Arline before everything could be resolved?
- 11) Maggie considers reincarnation, synchronicity, genetic memory, and divine intervention as possible explanations of her experience. Why does she decide it doesn't matter what it is? What do you think it is?
- 12) Discuss the significance of the moon and the daisy.