

## On the Other Side of the Sun

1. "On the Other Side of the Sun" tells the story of Viola, who lives in a destructive marriage. What characterizes Viola's relationship to her husband?
2. Have you yourself experienced a similar destructive relationship in your surroundings? How have you or other people reacted? Can one react?
3. How would you characterize Viola? And Axel?
4. How do you think they change during the story?
5. Viola does for a long time bow to Axel's outbreaks and the family is trodding around very carefully around him. What has led to this behaviour? Why do people – often women – end up in relations similar to this one?
6. Axel has been lying about his true situation, that he has been fired. What has the loss of his social status done to him? Can you understand him?
7. Axel's mother is senile and lives in a home for elderly people. How would you characterize Axel's relationship to her?
8. On this home for elderly people, Viola meets Lea. A woman with a lot of confidence and courage who has led an exciting life. What do these meetings do for Viola? What influences her the most?
9. What characterizes Lea? What kind of woman is she? Do you know someone like her?
10. Lea has worked as a missionary in China together with her husband and she has also occupied herself with voluntary work and education there. Is mission good or bad or both? What does mission mean, exactly?
11. Lea's story is told in a couple of short stories where certain objects and events are reoccurring. Which ones? What meaning do they have?
12. Do you like it that the novel contains short stories? Is there a short story that you liked in particular? Why?
13. How do you interpret the ending? Do you think Viola leaves Axel or does she stay in her marriage?
14. Is there a passage in the book that affected you in particular? Which one? What mood characterizes the book in general?