

READERS GUIDE FOR THE LAST CADILLAC: A MEMOIR

BY NANCY NAU SULLIVAN

What is the **central idea** of THE LAST CADILLAC: A MEMOIR? What was the author's motivation in writing THE LAST CADILLAC? Does the author clearly impart the idea, passionately, or are the ideas fragmented?

Was the **point** of the book to share an opinion, explain a topic, tell about a personal journey, or something else? Did the author do it well? Give an example.

What **life lesson** can be learned from this story?

Did the book read like a **story**, a newspaper article, a report, a novel, something else? Give examples.

What one new **fact** did you learn from reading this book?

Did you feel this book truly belonged in the **nonfiction genre**?

What part of this book **inspired** you in some way? Explain.

Will you read **other books** by this author? Why or why not?

Did this book **change** your life in a positive or negative way? Or not at all?

What **issues** does the author explore? Are they personal, spiritual, medical, sociological—global? Do the issues, such as care of the elderly or sibling rivalry, affect your life? How so—directly on a daily basis, or more generally? Now or some time in the future?

How does the author **support** the book's ideas? Is the personal evidence convincing? What about the factual evidence, including information about medication, treatments, and costs, affect your opinion of the author's experience? Were you surprised, disgusted, happy, relieved at some of the observations the author made, especially as regards the medical treatment her father went through?

What do you think of the **language** the author uses? Does the use of some lyrical language, description of setting, back story, and character description entertain, or not? Does it help or undercut the author's point? Comment.

What about those **characters**? Who did you like and dislike? Why?

What about the **conflict** within the family? What does the conflict among the siblings convey—add or take away from the story line? On whose side do you fall in the line-up? Nancy, Lucy, Julia, Jack, Dad, Tick, Little Sunshine?

What are the **implications for the future** – for you? Do you foresee yourself in the same situations the author did? Which ones? Which are most relevant to you, and why?

What **solutions** does the author work out for herself? With or without the family? What would you do in the same situation, given an elderly relative, a divorce, death, sibling rivalry, a big move across country—discuss. Or would you stay put and try to work out the family crisis? Alone or with the help of....?

Talk about **specific passages** that struck you as significant—or interesting, profound, amusing, illuminating, disturbing, sad?

What have you learned from the experiences described in *THE LAST CADILLAC*? Has the book broadened your **perspective** about some difficult family issues? Has the book made you think about making changes in your life? What about those changes.

Thank you, LitLovers and Where Writers Win for your help in forming these questions.