

Discussion Questions for *Bliss Remembered* by Frank Deford

1. Did you like the book? Why or why not?
2. Did you find the characters believable? Which of the characters did you like the most? Which did you dislike?
3. Did you find the dialog in the story realistic?
4. What did you think of the plot line development? How credible did the author make the plot?
5. In the chapters set in the past, did the author convey the era well? Did it feel like the author did his homework?
6. Has anyone had any experiences that relate to places or experiences in the book?
7. Did you know anything about the Berlin Olympics before reading *Bliss, Remembered*? Did you learn anything that surprised you?
8. What did you think of the appearances of Hitler, Goebbels, and Leni Riefenstahl?
9. Teddy reads the story about his mother being robbed and Jimmy Branch running down the thief. (p. 253)

I put Mom's pages down and just shook my head, absolutely flabbergasted. It was one thing for my father not to want to talk about Guadalcanal, but I found it simply incomprehensible that neither he nor Mom had ever told me this lovely little story before. I mean, this was an absolute "My hero!" moment. Surely, this must've been the very instant when Mom began to turn her affection away from the self-assured Horst to the sweet and humble Jimmy. My father was stepping up!

Did you have any thought when you read this passage? What is the author trying to achieve by inserting this story at this point in the book?

10. Any comments about the way the book ended? Did you see the "surprise" ending coming?
11. Are there questions you would like to ask?