

Questions about In Cod we Trust: Living the Norwegian Dream – Eric Dregni

Do you have any Scandinavian ancestry? What has it meant to you? Have you been there?

What did you know of Norway before reading this book? How has your impression changed?

Why did people often leave those countries in the 1800s? How was their life when they got to the US?

Were Eric and Katie properly prepared for their year there, for having a baby there?

What do you see as advantages of living in Norway compared to the US or another country and what might be the disadvantages? How do you evaluate Democratic Socialism?

What kind of personal characteristics are valued in Norway? Does this carry over into the culture of the Scandinavians descendants in the Midwest?

What do you think of the Jante Rules (p. 22)? Are they similar to what is felt in other small towns?

How do you think people handle the Dark Time? Do we have that here?

How would you feel about going through labor in another country? Living for a year?

What characters or experiences did you find interesting?

Is it important to you to preserve your family's heritage or doesn't it matter for life today? Will the US be better or worse off if it becomes more a melting pot and ethnic backgrounds are forgotten? Why are recent immigrants often resented by older immigrants? By those struggling to make it?

Quotes: p.23: "In Norway people don't ask 'What do you do?' But 'Where are you from?'"

p. 109: "But just like in Minnesota, not letting the winter bother you was a sign of strength."