BOOK OF AGES

READERS GUIDE

God, Cher, and Age 30: it's hard to imagine a more invigorating combination of discussion topics. We hope that the following questions will enrich your reading of this rollicking hybrid of *If* and *The Secret Language of Birthdays*. After all, nobody should have to go through their thirties alone, especially you. May this guide serve as a moody companion.

Query 1:
In their introductory note, the authors say, "So you're 30. For some, it's no big deal. For others, it's the end of the world." What are they up to?

Query 2:
In the first draft of the manuscript, the authors claimed that this book "will make you believe in God." What motive drove the editors to cut that assertion?

Query 3:
Chapter 8 ("Apocalypse") & Chapter 9 ("Redemption") do not exist, yet the authors claim that they are at the core of their vision. What?

Query 4:
On pages 42-43, the authors contrast Harrison Ford and Jesus, both of whom were carpenters at age 30. Who, in your opinion, is a better choice for the role of Indiana Jones?

Query 5:
One reviewer claims the book contains hints of "The Internet Movie Database." How does *Book of Ages 30* compare to other things that might turn up on a random Google search?

Query 6:
Nearly everyone experiences a turning point which represents the transition from youth to adulthood, but seldom as traumatic as Mikhail Gorbachev's. What trauma gave you *your* "large red splotch across your head"?

Query 7:
Many have said that the red dots throughout *Book of Ages 30* represent "a trail of blood." Whose blood? What incident?

Query 8:
Among the authors' many gifts is a rich descriptive palette. On page 121 Marlon Brando is described as an "actor," Madonna is described as a "pop superstar" (p. 83), and Thomas Edison is described as "never one to sit around" (p. 126). Using this formula, how would you describe yourself?

Query 9:
The full name of this book, *Book of Ages 30,* includes the number "30." Taken on its own, the number 30 is what is called in mathematics an "even" number. Does this mean that this book is "even" better than other books?

Query 10:
The final two pages of this book contain space for "Autographs." If you have not already used these pages, write a brief bio of one of the members of your book club, tear the pages from the book, and mail them to the following address:

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Best entries will be featured on BookofAges.com. What?