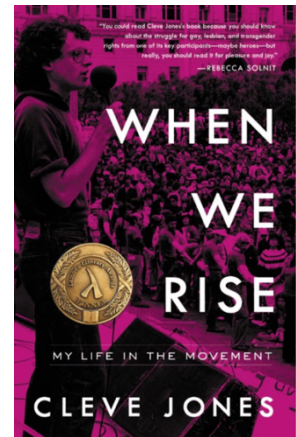


Discussion Guide

When We Rise: My Life in the Movement

By Cleve Jones

1. Cleve writes that he first realized that there were other people like him in the world when he saw a 1971 story in Life magazine titled “Homosexuals in Revolt.” What do you think it was like for LGBTQ young people before the “movement”? Is the experience completely different for young people today?
2. How is the city of San Francisco like a character in the book? What was it about this city, in particular, that had an almost magnetic-like pull for young people like Cleve?
3. Like many young people who flocked to San Francisco in the 1970s, Cleve found strength in close friendships. Why do you think establishing a sense of community was so vital for LGBTQ people like Cleve? How does Cleve’s community respond to various challenges in the book?
4. Harvey Milk was the first openly gay person elected to public office in California. What effect did his assassination have on the gay rights movement? On Cleve himself?
5. Cleve writes, “By 1985, almost everyone I knew was dead, or dying, or caring for someone who was dying.” Did Cleve’s book give you a new perspective on the AIDS epidemic?
6. In 1985, Cleve conceived of what came to be called the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. Today, it is the largest piece of community folk art in the world. Why do you think a community quilt was such an effective way to honor and bring attention to the thousands of people who have lost their lives to AIDS?
7. In addition to Harvey Milk’s assassination and the early years of the AIDS epidemic, Cleve writes about the role he played in the more recent struggle to achieve marriage equality. From the book, did you get the sense that Cleve’s approach to politics has changed over the course of his four decades in the public eye?
8. Has reading about Cleve’s efforts to champion the rights of marginalized people inspired you to get more involved in your community? Are there issues in your own community that demand protest or community political movement?
9. After reading *When We Rise*, watch the eponymous miniseries from ABC, which partly was inspired by the book. What is different about the miniseries and Cleve’s book? Did it help you understand Cleve’s story in a new way?



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