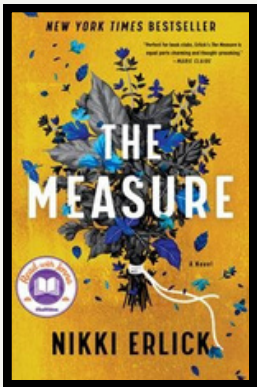


Welcome to Book & Bake

March 8, 2025

Characters



Maura

- Short string
- Nina's partner
- "a fighter"
- passionate
- headstrong

Nina

- Long String
- Maura's partner
- Media editor (author uses this to give global perspective)
- Needs control

Ben

- Short String
- Did not choose to look at his string (Clair made the choice for him)
- Joins short string support group (w/Maura)
- Corresponds with Amie anonymously
- Patient/thoughtful

Amie

- Did not open box
- Nina's younger sister
- Teacher



Jack

- **Long string**
- **Comes from prominent family with military background**
- **Nephew to the Rollins**
- **Uses his privilege to advocate for short stringers**
- **No desire for active duty in the military**

Javier

- **Short string**
- **Attends military academy with Jack**
- **Strong desire for active duty (serve)**

Katherine and Anthony Rollins

- **Long Strings**
- **Jack's Aunt and Uncle**
- **Strive to have strong political career**



Hank

- **Short string**
- **Doctor – planned to not share but ultimately tells Annicka.**

Fate & Choice

Amie's decision not to open her box presents an interesting stand on fate versus choice. Is her decision a wise way to preserve possibility, or is it an avoidance of reality that could limit her ability to fully engage with life and relationships?



Erlick weaves the man on the bike playing Que Sera Sera into the fabric of the novel. How did this resonate with you?

If your life seemed predestined by the length of a string, do you think you'd lean more towards accepting fate or asserting control over your destiny through the choices you make?

Impact of Secrets

Secrets in *The Measure*, especially Jack and Javier's, deeply impact relationships and even societal structures. Can keeping secrets ever be justified, or does the act of concealing truth invariably lead to personal and collective detriment?

Impact on Society and Culture

How do race and class play a role in the events of the novel? Discuss Erlick's exploration of discrimination through the concept of the strings. What lessons does this offer for real-world societies?

What are your thoughts about the government's involvement?

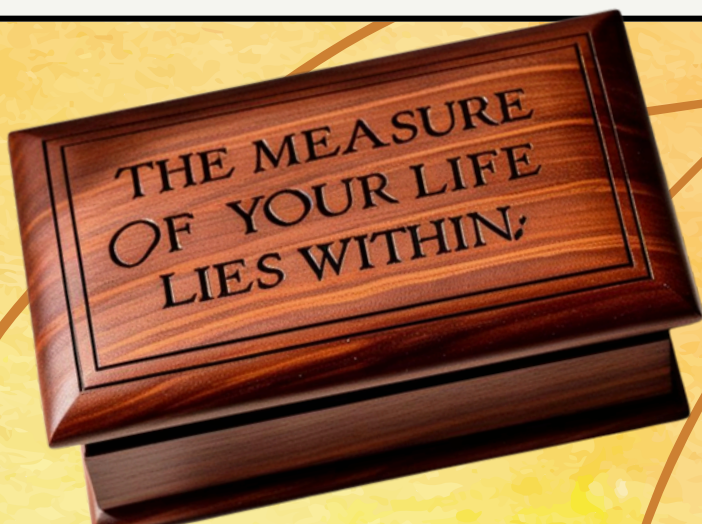
What are your thoughts about hospitals turning away people who only want "treatment" due to their short string? Do you feel there is another option?

Reflection and Connection

"Que Sera, Sera" suggests an acceptance of fate. Do you believe that embracing an attitude of 'whatever will be, will be' can bring an inner peace, or does it discourage taking control of one's path?

The author does not explain the boxes but seems to instead focus upon the social implications of the strings. Why do you think she made this decision and how did it impact your view/enjoyment of the novel?

How did the attitude and actions of Anthony Rollins impact you?



What would you do?