

Dancing in Small Spaces: One Couple’s Journey with Parkinson’s Disease and Lewy Body Dementia by Leslie A. Davidson

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS HERE** (Ideally 10 questions to guide discussion of the title):

1. In Dancing in Small Spaces, Leslie Davidson finds a way their story in a way that is both honest and challenging to the reader. Did you feel a connection to Lincoln that allowed you to think of him as more than his diagnosis?
2. As Leslie’s own condition worsens and she needs to take time to focus on her own care, she was able to lean heavily on their established social network for the support that she needed with Lincoln. As our society ages, and more of the population gets diagnosed with similar conditions to those of Leslie and Lincoln, how do you foresee society filling in the gaps that our healthcare system cannot meet?
3. What are the challenges that Leslie encountered that most surprised you? Did her way of assuaging Lincoln’s fear about which Leslie was present resonate with how you would problem solve being accused by your life partner as being a fraud and a trickster?
4. What specific hurdles would providing this level of loving care have to navigate if this story had unfolded during the Covid-19 era of long term care homes? Do you feel as though the way in which access to patients are treated should be re-evaluated, with this book as our lens?
5. Extended family were integral to Leslie’s ability to come up with creative solutions for Lincoln’s cognitive decline, as they struggled with his night terrors and his delusions. Do you feel that their small Canadian community was a big piece of their ability to build their network, or would it have been just as likely for them in a bigger city?
6. Did reading this book provide you with a different perspective, or greater understanding of, life for people living with chronic, degenerative illness?
7. While reading about the adventures that Leslie still took Lincoln on, did you find yourself wondering if you would do the same? It was so much effort, with quite high risk, and it didn’t always go well, but she persevered, and did it more than once, knowing that Lincoln needed to feel the wind in his hair and achieve some level of speed, to help him feel alive!
8. Nature seems to be its own character in this story, offering opportunity for adventure, as well as challenges and hardships. Having access to the outdoors was integral to Leslie and Lincoln’s journey through their double diagnosis. What do you feel would be necessary for you, in a similar situation?