

# HELLO LONESOME

## Discussion Guide

1. The stories in HELLO LONESOME are thematically related, but do not intersect, bucking the trend of portraying far-flung personal sagas that become intertwined (i.e. AMORES PERROS, CRASH, etc.). Discuss this choice. Does it make the individual stories more or less effective?
2. Although in some ways the film ties up its characters' arcs neatly (as emphasized by the bookend narration), there are plenty of ambiguous moments as well. We never see Bill's daughter, for example, or learn much of their falling out. What do these elements of mystery lend the film?
3. Which characters did you find the most sympathetic? Which were the most relatable? The most realistic? Is it necessary to identify with these stories to appreciate them?
4. Two of the three vignettes end, in some part, with a redemptive moment of luck. Debby and Gordon's story particularly relies on this, from the grave misfortune of Debby's diagnosis, to Gordon's large financial successes in sports betting. What do you think the film is trying to say about the role of chance?

