

READER DISCUSSION GUIDE

-JUSTICE BY EMILY CONRAD-

1. WHICH SCENE OR MOMENT FROM THE STORY DID YOU FIND YOURSELF THINKING ABOUT AFTER THE STORY ENDED?
2. WHAT SURPRISED YOU ABOUT THE STORY?
3. IF YOU COULD CHANGE JUST ONE DECISION ONE CHARACTER MADE THROUGHOUT THE NOVEL, WHICH ONE WOULD IT BE? WHAT RIPPLE EFFECT MIGHT THAT HAVE?
4. WHICH CHARACTER DID YOU BEST RELATE TO? WHY?
5. DO YOU THINK JAKE WAS RIGHT TO REFUSE WHEN HAROLD FIRST TELLS HIM TO STOP SELLING BOOKS? WHY OR WHY NOT?
6. BROOKLYN DIDN'T TELL HER CLOSEST FRIENDS OR FAMILY WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO HER FOR MONTHS. DID YOU FIND IT EASY OR HARD TO RELATE TO THIS DECISION? WHY?
7. WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS TO BE ABOVE REPROACH? WERE JAKE AND BROOKLYN'S INTERPRETATIONS OF THIS GOAL HEALTHY OR HARMFUL?
8. DO YOU FEEL THAT THE CHURCH RESPONDED CORRECTLY WHEN NEWS OF BROOKLYN'S PREGNANCY BROKE? WHY OR WHY NOT?
9. BROOKLYN IS A PERFECTIONIST. IN WHAT WAYS DOES THIS AFFECT HER RELATIONSHIP WITH JAKE? HOW DOES IT AFFECT HER FRIENDSHIPS WITH OTHER WOMEN?
10. WHEN CALEB LEARNS OF THE RAPE, HE ASKS JAKE, "IF GOD IS GOOD, HOW DID THIS HAPPEN TO HER?" WHAT WOULD YOU REPLY?
11. EARLY ON, JAKE HALF-JOKINGLY TELLS DEVIN THEY'LL ALWAYS HAVE EACH OTHER. IN WHAT WAYS IS HE RIGHT? THOUGH JAKE IS DEVIN'S MENTOR, IN WHAT WAYS DOES DEVIN HELP JAKE?
12. JAKE AND BROOKLYN BOTH SEEK TO STOP THE DAMAGING EFFECTS OF OTHERS' ACTIONS. JAKE CLAIMS TO BE PURSUING JUSTICE WHILE BROOKLYN FOCUSES ON FORGIVENESS. ARE JUSTICE AND FORGIVENESS AT ODDS WITH EACH OTHER? ARE THE TWO SIMULTANEOUSLY POSSIBLE?
13. THOUGH THE STORY IS NOT ABOUT A VIRGIN BIRTH, CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF THE NOVEL WERE INSPIRED BY THE ACCOUNT OF MARY AND JOSEPH. WHAT SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES DID YOU NOTICE?