



Discussion Questions

for Book Clubs

1. How do you see the title appear in various forms throughout the story? Why do you think it was chosen for this novel?
2. Bea loves her father, but she still dreads telling him about her pregnancy and moving back in with him. What are some of the reasons she might have felt that way?
3. Mitch and his new son-in-law Jeremy don't always see eye to eye. Do you identify more with one of their approaches to life over the other? Where do you think Mitch goes wrong in approaching that relationship? What does he do right?
4. What did you think of Marge from her first introduction in the story? Did your opinion change by the end, and if so, why?
5. Grandma June's narrations have a different tone than the sections with Mitch and Bea. How would the story be different if they weren't included? Did you relate to her as a character, despite her struggle with dementia?
6. Bea's return to her small town from living in the city was full of ups and downs. What do you think are some of the benefits to small-town life? Some of the drawbacks? Have you had personal experience with living in a small town, and if so, how did it compare to Moose Creek?
7. Even though Mitch felt he'd "burned that bridge" when it came to his friendship with Frank, he still returned to his old friend for advice. What do you think made their friendship so resilient? Do you have a longtime friend you can trust like Mitch trusted Frank?
8. Besides their unplanned pregnancies, how are Amber and Bea similar? How are they different?
9. Mitch struggled in his interactions with his church family after his wife died. What do you think is helpful for people of faith to say and do when someone is grieving, and what is unhelpful?
10. What are some of the challenges of caregiving that the characters in the novel had to face when taking care of Grandma June? Can you relate to any of them from your own personal experience? What do you think is the most difficult aspect of serving as a caregiver?
11. At a low point in the story, Bea muses that "No one had ever told her that marriage would be this hard." What advice about the challenges and realities of married life do you think is helpful to share with young people?
12. Which of the main characters did you personally enjoy getting to know?
13. What did you think about the author's resolution of the various story threads? Was there one that stood out to you?