

BOOK CLUB GUIDE PART 2

There I Am

VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB

SECTION 2

Ch 6 Sex, Drums, and Dido

Ch 7 Southern Baptist Romance

Ch 8 Every Little Pill

Ch 9 Harry Potter and the Little Black Spot

Ch 10 More than God Can Count


Ch 11 Always Look Out for the Little Guy



CHAPTER

Six

THEMES

- The act of falling in love for the first time.
 - The friction of the rules we have been taught our whole life vs our own desires.
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FAVORITE QUOTES

I love him the way I like to be loved; I delight in him.

I don't know why Jack gets sad, but I like that I make him feel better. I'm special and needed, I belong.

We barely know each other, we barely know ourselves, but we make new promises to erase the ones that we broke.

I'm scared and lonely, even though I'll never be alone again.

We know nothing about sex. Nobody told us about our bodies, how powerful they are, that they can demand things. All they told us in school and church was not to listen to them if they spoke.

QUESTIONS

Think back to the first time you fell in love, what did it feel like?

So often we feel shame around our own happiness, how do you fight those feelings in your own life?

When have you felt deep loneliness while surrounded by others?

JOURNAL PROMPTS

Ruthie and Jack quickly moved into marriage because they felt like it was the “right” thing to do. Take some time to journal about what paths you have walked because you “ought to”. Take some time to grieve and show yourself grace + compassion.

CHAPTER

Seven

THEMES

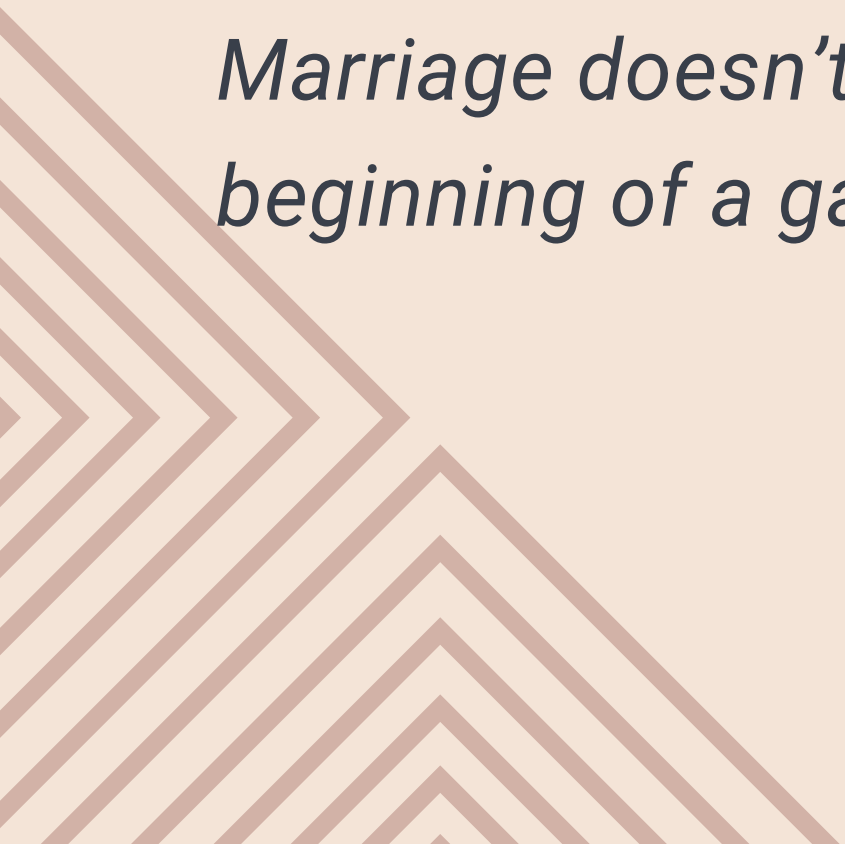
- Moving into adulthood.
- Discovering there is a perception of how things should look vs who we actually are.

FAVORITE QUOTES

I don't want to feel shame for the body inside the white dress anymore, and after today, our sinfulness, our lust, will become sacredness.

We promised God that we would take care of and honor each other but we don't even know how to do those things for ourselves.

Marriage doesn't feel like the accomplishment it was last week; it feels like the beginning of a game we just found out we could lose. We play it very carefully.



QUESTIONS

What are the moments in your life where you knew you were leaving your childhood behind?

How do you define womanhood?

What areas of your life are you playing like a game you could lose?

JOURNAL PROMPTS

Ruthie attempts to take care of Jack before knowing how to care for herself. Many times in life we take care of friends, partners, kids before we take care of ourselves. Make a list of ways you can care for yourself this week.

CHAPTER

Eight

THEMES

- The response to pain (of any kind) that we try to escape and numb.

FAVORITE QUOTES

When the doctors are out of ideas, my consolation prize is narcotic painkillers.

It's hard to believe in Jesus' healing love when your body is betraying you.

They say God is our father but the Bible feels feminine to me, like a mother.

I can see God more clearly out here in the fresh air than I can in a giant stone building.

I wish I could wear the ugly naked pain on a t-shirt some days, so it could announce itself and people would know not to expect too much.

QUESTIONS

The physical pain she experiences begins to break down Ruthie's ideas of faith.
What moments in your life have defined your faith beliefs?

What moments or events have interrupted your life and the way you expected things to go?

JOURNAL PROMPTS

Often times, people can't see our pain so they don't adjust the expectations of us. This can happen to all of us regardless if it's physical or emotional pain. Spend a few minutes journaling about the unseen struggles in your life you wish people could see.

CHAPTER

Nine

THEMES

- In the midst of trauma we tend to look for help in all the wrong places.

FAVORITE QUOTES

Over the next four years, everyone who loves me tries to make me whole again.

The sweetness of pills on my tongue is the only mercy, and though I don't abuse them, they abuse me, erase me.

She knows that I am angry at God, questioning him, that I have no desire to visit his house, since he refuses to come to mine.

Trying to fix me is the only way anyone knows to love me right now. Letting them try is the only way I know to love them back.

QUESTIONS

What are ways in your life other people have tried to fix you?

Whether you experience chronic pain or not, we all have ways of numbing out the pain we feel. What are some of the ways you try to avoid and numb your pain?

JOURNAL PROMPTS

Holding on to hope in times of pain can be so hard. What would it look like for you to have hope for your future? Take a few minutes to dream and hope for what that future could look like.

CHAPTER

Ten

THEMES

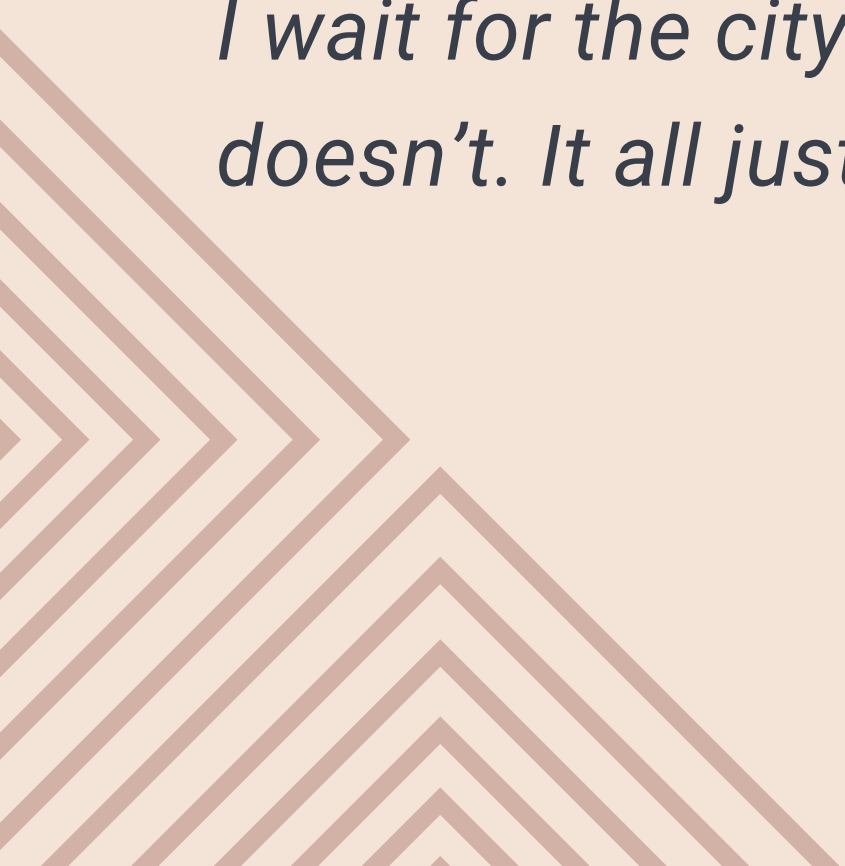
- Losing someone who we love so deeply.
- When pain begins to layer on in our lives.

FAVORITE QUOTES

There is always something that can hurt more, a place to go inside yourself that you haven't explored, that you don't even know about.

Gratitude is the purest form of healing.

I wait for the city to empty, for the sun to be snuffed out, for the world to stop, but it doesn't. It all just keeps moving.



QUESTIONS

Losing people we love shapes so much of who we are and how we carry forward in life. What losses have most shaped you?

Ruthie's mom expresses such gratitude through her grief. What role has gratitude played in your life during the most challenging of times?

JOURNAL PROMPTS

in the midst of our pain, the world keeps spinning and pushing us forward. In what ways has that forward motion saved you and in what ways has it stopped you from fully feeling what is inside you before taking that next step?

CHAPTER

Eleven

THEMES

- Celebrating life and how to say goodbye well.
- Coping when the blows seem to keep coming.

FAVORITE QUOTES

Healing is a verb, a continuous motion.

I love you so much, remember your manners, always look out for the little guy.

I don't see him anywhere - I don't see him anywhere. Show it to me.



QUESTIONS

What legacy do you want told of you once you are no longer on this earth?

Ruthie's community comes together to pay for her surgery. What are some ways your community has supported you when you lost hope? What are some ways you can support others?

JOURNAL PROMPTS

After plastering a smile on her face all through her father's funeral, Ruthie finally breaks after seeing her doctor. What would it look like for you to let all that is building inside of you to escape for a minute? Spend a few minutes here writing out a stream of consciousness of your feelings today.



THANK YOU

***We are so excited to read **THERE I AM**
with all of you during this wild season.***



HAVE A
QUESTION?

DON'T HESITATE TO REACH OUT!

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