

1. What were your initial impressions of Roman? Of Grace? Did your impressions change throughout the story, and if so, how and why?
2. When Roman offers to let Grace live in the guest cottage, she struggles with whether to accept. She tells her friends she's been praying about it but hasn't felt like she's received a clear answer, except that other opportunities she explores don't seem to come to fruition. If you were Grace, would you have taken that as a clear answer from God? Have you ever been in a similar situation? How did you ultimately make a decision?
3. At the end of chapter 5, Grace has conflicting thoughts when she finds out about Patrick's betrayal. What did you hope she'd do? Why?
4. What do you think it means that Grace notices details in Roman's work that no one else sees?
5. Grace remembers that Patrick "hadn't forced her to give up anything, but he'd known how to make her feel guilty enough to surrender all her dreams so he could attain his." Are you or someone you know being manipulated by false guilt? Why is this such a convenient tactic for manipulation—or even to make us doubt our own actions and decisions? How can we combat it?
6. When Grace asks Roman what he believes, he says, "We're born. We survive as best we can. We die. End of story." Have you ever felt that way, or known someone who did? How did Roman's response make you feel? Sum up your own beliefs in a short statement like Roman's.
7. Susan tells Grace that if Roman can't let go of his past, he will never reach his full potential, and Grace knows the same applies to her. What elements of their pasts do each of them need to let go of? How do we see this happening in the story? Are there things in your past that you need to let go of?
8. After Roman and Grace visit Aunt Elizabeth, Grace shares her experience about an angel visiting her as a child, which opened her heart to the Lord. Have you or a friend ever had a supernatural experience like this? If you're comfortable doing so, share it with the group.
9. Roman did not have a supernatural experience as a child, or anything that specifically pointed him to Christ. Are there indications that God was indeed looking out for him, just as He was looking out for Grace? Can you look back on your own life and see ways that God was guiding or protecting you, even without supernatural intervention?
10. Grace wonders why she couldn't see the truth about Patrick, and in chapter 26, Aunt Elizabeth comments to Miranda that Leanne couldn't see the similarities between her husband and their abusive father, either. Why do you think that is?



11. When Roman asks why he didn't know Jasper was a Christian, Jasper responds, "You never asked, and anytime I brought up spiritual matters, your eyes glazed over. There's a time for everything under the sun, Bobby Ray. The time never seemed quite right with you." What are some reasons for waiting until someone is ready to hear the gospel? What are some reasons for sharing the truth, whether a person seems ready or not? How can we know which is best?

12. Jasper tells Roman, "Faith is just the beginning of a long, difficult journey." How does this play out in Roman's life after his near-death experience? In what ways have you seen the truth of this in your own faith journey?

13. After Roman's near-death experience, he is left with a chronic leg injury that the doctors can't explain. How did you feel about this element of the story? Why do you think the author chose to include it?

14. What is Roman's intent when he suggests to Grace that they become "more intimate"? How is this different for him from the casual hookups he's had until now? Why is it still not enough for Grace?

15. Aunt Elizabeth tells Grace, "I'm an architect when it comes to building walls." The same could be said of both Grace and Roman, as well as many people in real life. In what areas do you build walls? What are some ways you've found to begin to tear them down, either in your own life or the life of someone close to you?





