



NOTES ON YOUR

SUDDEN

BOOK  
CLUB  
KIT

DISAPPEARANCE

*a novel*

ALISON ESPACH



## Welcome to the Book Club Kit for *NOTES ON YOUR SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE.*

Please note: In order to provide book clubs with the most informed and thought-provoking questions possible, it is necessary to reveal aspects of the plot of this novel—as well as the ending. If you have not finished reading *Notes on Your Sudden Disappearance*, you may want to wait before reviewing this guide.

1. *Notes on Your Sudden Disappearance* is both a sister story, a love story, and the story of a family rebuilding itself. How did the different threads enhance each other and which of them did you find the most compelling or moving?
2. How does the story benefit from being told from Sally's perspective, the younger of the two siblings? What did you make of Sally's direct address to her sister throughout the book?
3. How does Sally and Kathy's relationship change over the years, before Kathy's death? How does Sally and Kathy's relationship change after Kathy's death?
4. Is it reasonable that Sally's family blames Billy for the crash? Why or why not?
5. How does Kathy's death change Sally and Billy's relationship? How does the novel explore trauma bonding through Billy and Sally's budding relationship?
6. Sally has to mature quickly because of Kathy's death, especially as her mother becomes very needy. How does this stunt Sally's own personal growth? How does it affect the decisions she makes in her adult life?
7. There is a lot of plant and tree imagery throughout the novel—Bill's Tree and Garden, the Norwegian maple trees in Sally and Kathy's backyard, Billy's neck tattoo of vines. What is the significance of this theme?
8. Kathy believed in ghosts. How does the development of Hurricane Kathy at the end act as a ghost-like presence? In what way is a ghost similar to grief?
9. Were you rooting for Billy and Sally to get together? Why or why not?