



PARTICIPANT GUIDE

THE GIRL WHO COULD BREATHE UNDER WATER
BY ERIN BARTELS



"The best fiction simply tells the truth. But the truth is never that simple."

ERIN BARTELS



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Q. Which character did you feel was most relatable? Why?

2

Q. Can you think of a childhood friend or place that profoundly impacted your life and who you are?

3

Q. Kendra states that Robert was the good and bad guy in her story. There is good and bad in us all. How can we rest in God when we fail or fall short of who we want to be?

4

Q. A main theme in this story is forgiveness. Why is forgiving important, and what helps you find the strength to forgive?

5

Q. What makes us who we are today? The good days we've had or the bad ones?

6

Q. "The best fiction simply tells the truth, but the truth is never simple" (Robert). Why do you think the truth is never simple?

7

Q. Friendship is a theme in the novel. Discuss Kendra's and Cami's friendship. How can we learn to be better friends to one another?

8

Q. The book touches on the idea that we are responsible for the mental health of others, and Kendra feels partly responsible for Cami's suicide. What are your thoughts on this? How does God ask us to care for others?

9

Q. During her healing journey, Kendra is filled with regret for not returning to Hidden Lake sooner. Can you think of a time you felt deep regret? How can remembering help us to heal?

10

Q. The book explores the idea of the validity of the truth in our memories and differing perspectives. Why is it important to consider the same story from different points of view?



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