Reading Group Guide

1. In the prologue, Holly says, “The cold, like the darkness, can become a deceptive comfort you never want to leave.” What does she mean by this? How does this statement complement or contradict your own ideas of loss or sadness?

2. At the National Museum, Holly and Gabriel’s tour guide starts talking about Penelope, Odysseus’s legendarily faithful wife from The Odyssey. What was your reaction to Holly’s immediate feelings of guilt? If you were in Holly’s position, do you think you would feel disloyal, seven years after the loss of a loved one, for trying to move on?

3. What do you think of the ways in which Holly, Denise, and Sharon provide support for one another? How does their support differ from Ciara and Gabriel’s support of Holly?

4. In the spirit of the PS, I Love You letters, what letters (or more modern iteration of communication, like Paul’s videos) would you leave behind for your loved ones? Would you tell stories? Relive favorite moments? Inject humor? What inherent message would you want your loved ones to take away?

5. Imagine yourself in Holly’s shoes. If you were approached by members of the PS, I Love You Club, would you decide to help them, even if it meant opening yourself up to heartbreak?

6. As Holly spends more and more time with members of the PS, I Love You Club, she starts to perceive Gerry’s letters differently: some of the letters were meant to force Holly out of her comfort zone—to see the world as Gerry would have helped her see it, had he not passed away. What have you always wanted to do that’s outside your comfort zone, and what is holding you back? Who encourages or inspires you to step outside your comfort zone?

7. Holly struggles with the knowledge that she has changed and grown as a person since Gerry’s death. She ultimately realizes that “It takes a person who is more in control of who they are to cast a discerning, nonjudgmental eye over who they once were.” Have you ever decided to change something about yourself, even if it meant distancing yourself from someone you love?

8. In Chapter 34, the author poses an interesting question: Is it possible for something—or someone—to have both roots and wings? How do you decide when to hold on and when to move forward?
9. What do you think baby Jewel’s future will look like? Do you want Jewel to meet her biological father? Will Holly play a role in her life?

10. What surprised you about the end of the novel? Did you anticipate Gerry’s final letter? What do you think of Holly’s ultimate decision to move in with Gabriel and start working on the PS, I Love You Foundation?