

BOOK CLUB KIT

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) The novel opens with a narrowly avoided shooting at Morgan's school. How does this experience affect them over the course of the story? How would the novel change if this plot point were omitted? What about if it happened halfway through the book instead of at the beginning?
- 2) Do you think Julian's autism affects the ways Morgan responds to events like Zoe's reappearance in their life, their first fight with Sadie, or the crisis with Peter? What do you think the author hoped to convey about neurodiversity, and neurodiverse parenthood in particular, through Julian?
- 3) What role, if any, does Morgan's nonbinary identity play in the events of the novel? Does their gender identity affect how other characters in the novel interact with them? Did Morgan at all change your perception of nonbinary individuals? If so, how?
- 4) What was your first reaction to Julian and Brigid's relationship? How does their relationship impact your experience of each of them as individual characters? What does their friendship reveal about each of their relationships with Zoe?
- 5) This novel includes many imbalanced relationships, romantic and otherwise; how does the impulse to "fix" a person factor into these relationships? How do you see the unhealthy aspects of these relationships affecting the characters? Did these relationships give you any insight into your own relationships?
- 6) In a few instances, Morgan has to take on a more "parental" role with Julian and Zoe. How does this affect them through the course of the novel? How are Morgan's relationships with their parents similar to the parent-child relationships in your life? In what ways are they different?
- 7) Social media and online communication are a strong thread through the book, from Sadie's YouTube channel to Morgan's Twitter experiences to Brigid and Julian's friendship. How do these digital worlds positively and negatively shape the lives of the characters? What might this novel have looked like if it were written several decades ago?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 8) Intense loneliness drove Morgan to impersonate Sadie online. Did you predict that a conflict would arise with Peter? Why or why not? Have you ever similarly been fooled by someone online, or impersonated someone yourself? If so, how did you react, or how do you think you would've? Do you think your answer would've been different before understanding what motivated Morgan?
- 9) Money and socioeconomic status are central to this novel. How would interactions between Morgan and their mother, between Zoe and her family members, and between Morgan and Sadie change if their economic situations changed? How does socioeconomic status affect relationships in your life?
- 10) Using comparisons of Sadie's family life and Morgan's, the novel connects emotional wealth and monetary wealth; how do you think each of the main characters values these types of wealth? How do you? Do these valuations change over the course of the novel?
- II) Morgan and Zoe both experience a number of traumatic incidents before and during the action of the novel. How do they similarly grapple with these hurts? Where do they diverge? What does juxtaposing the two reveal about their characterizations? Do you think Morgan's experience with Peter and Sadie informed their ability to perceive Zoe?

### **Book Club Menu Ideas**



From Brigid:
Creamy Sage Gnocchi
Find the recipe here

From Sadie & Morgan:
Perfect Grilled Cheese
<u>Find the recipe here</u>





For Dessert:

Morgan's 1st

Birthday Cake

<u>Find the recipe here</u>

# Julian's Perfect PB&J

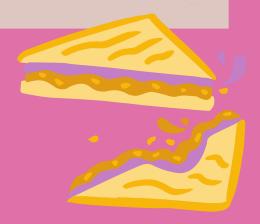
Wheat bread soft enough to hold a thumbprint when pressed; no seeds

Skippy peanut butter, smooth (never chunky)

Smuckers seedless raspberry jam

Cut on a diagonal, never in half

Crusts must be eaten first (never decrust the sandwich before serving)



# Meet the Flowers (& Co)

...as flowers!



Zoe: Rananculus
Charming, attractive,
reckless

Julian: Protea
Transformative,
courageous





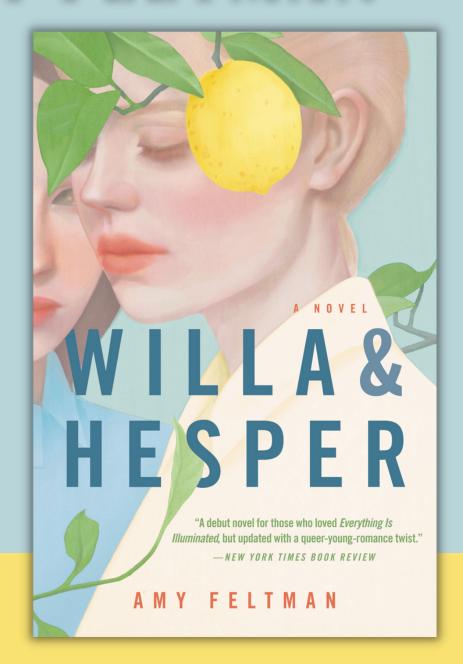
Morgan: Coral
Charm Peony
Compassionate, fluid

# ALL THE THINGS WE DON'T TALK ABOUT

#### **PLAYLIST**

The XX, "Shelter" David Bowie, "Julie" Foals, "What Went Down" Sylvan Esso, "Dress" Mitski, "A Pearl" Fiona Apple, "Fast As You Can" Wilsen, "Fuse" Adia Victoria, "Get Lonely" Neko Case, "Hold on, Hold on" Ex: Re, "I can't keep you" Lemolo, "Runner"

# MORE BY AMY FELTMAN



A soul-piercing debut that explores the intertwining of past and present, queerness, and coming of age in uncertain times.

Follow the author!

