

Let Me Explain My Violence
A Novel by Hayden Kwast

Book Club Discussion Points - Part I

Faith

- Does faith influence Amanda's decision making in Part I?
- Why is Amanda drawn to the levy in Chapter 5? Does it influence what happens there?
- Why does Amanda's Mom keep religion at arms length?
- Does Ilana believe in ghosts?

Betterment

- Is Amanda sincerely concerned for her kids future?
- Who are Samantha and Andy's role models?
- If Amanda had taken pictures and divorced Nathan, could that have made her and her kids lives better?

Revenge

- Was Amanda's grandmother justified in attacking Amanda's grandfather?
- Was it fair how Amanda asked Nathan about his cheating?
- Is revenge ever justifiable?

Truth

- Was Amanda's Grandmother schizophrenic?
- Did Amanda's mom see her grandmother in a lake? Does Amanda believe that she did?
- Why does Nathan lie to Amanda about cheating?
- Does Danek believe Amanda when they meet at his office? What about when they meet for breakfast?
- Given Danek's past, why is truth important to him?
- Is Amanda telling the truth?

Reality

- Is reality what an individual experiences or what other people believe?
- If Amanda believes what she wrote is real, does that make it reality?

Family

- Is family important to Amanda?
- If Amanda and her father were to get back in touch, who should reach out first?
- Why does Danek decide to work with Amanda?

Control

- Why didn't Amanda want to take Ilana's money to hire a divorce lawyer?
- How does Nathan control Amanda? Why has it been effective?
- What changes in Amanda that convinces her to take back control from Nathan?
- What did Gabriele mean when in Chapter 16 he told Amanda to "set her daughter free?"