

Let Me Explain My Violence
A Novel by Hayden Kwast

Book Club Discussion Points - Part II

Faith

- Does faith influence Amanda's decision making in part II?
- How did Amanda's faith evolve from Part I to Part II?
- Why does Amanda's mom not want her to believe in Gabriel?
- Does Elizabeth believe Amanda?

Betterment

- Has Amanda set her kids up for a better future by writing her story?
- Why does Amanda's mom want for her family?
- Why does Amanda want Ilana to take care of her kids?

Revenge

- Did Amanda's step father, William, deserve his punishment?
- Why does Ilana question if Amanda killed Nathan?
- In your opinion, what would have been the most appropriate punishment for Amanda?

Truth

- What does Amanda mean when she tells Ilana the truth doesn't matter? Do you agree?
- Did Gabriel ever lie to Amanda?
- Was Nathan a victim or victimizer?
- Is the state's case against Amanda compelling?
- Is Amanda defense compelling?
- Does Ilana still support Amanda at the end of the story? Do you support Amanda?

Reality

- Does Ilana believe in ghosts by the end of Part II?
- Is Gabriele a ghost, Amanda's delusion, or an elaborate lie?
- Why are people stuck in the "in between"?
- How does Elizabeth define reality?
- When judging Amanda, should how she perceives reality make a difference?

Family

- Does Ilana want to be the guardian for Samantha and Andy?
- Should Amanda be reunited with her kids? Under what conditions?
- Why is Gabriel's wife so upset that he took his own life? Does she forgive him?
- Is Amanda closer to her Mom by the end of Part II? Does her Mom want them to be?

Control

- Why did Gabriele try to seduce Amanda and have her join him?
- Amanda initially meant to end her story with the poem, why did she add the Epilogue?
- How much control over her life does Amanda have at the end of the story?