

book club questions

THE LAST THING HE TOLD ME

- The Last Thing He Told Me is a unique book that could have had any number of titles. Why do you think author Laura Dave selected this one?
- Do you find any significance to the family home being a boat?
- What did you think Owen meant when he said, "Protect her," both when you started reading The Last Thing He Told Me and when you finished it?
- What do the two words "Protect her" reveal about Owen's personality?
- Where did you initially suspect Owen had gone and why?
- What do you think Owen wanted to happen after he left?
- Did Owen make the right decision in leaving as he did?
- Did the flashbacks to "happier times" change your impressions of any of the characters or how they got to the present?
- How would you have felt in Hannah's shoes if Owen were your husband?
- How would you have felt in Bailey's shoes if Owen were your father?
- What made Bailey dislike Hannah at first?
- Discuss the questions Hannah had about her predicament and what questions you would have had.
- Would you have attempted to uncover the truth as Hannah did?
- Did any of the answers Hannah found surprise you?
- What do these truths reveal about Owen's character?
- Hannah is a unique character in a unique predicament. How would you describe her and her motivations?
- Would you have made the same decisions for the future as Hannah?

- Discuss Hannah's, Bailey's, and Owen's views on love.
- Discuss the role of trust in The Last Thing He Told Me and the characters' views on it.
- How did Hannah change over the course of The Last Thing He Told Me?
- How did Hannah's and Bailey's relationship change over the course of The Last Thing He Told Me?
- Discuss the difficulties of stepparenting.
- Discuss Hannah's views on motherhood and parenting.
- Discuss Hannah's experience as a child of each of her parents (and step-parent).
- What do you think will happen in the future for these characters?
- What was your first reaction after turning the final page of The Last Thing He Told Me?
- The Last Thing He Told Me is very thought-provoking. Did you find yourself thinking about it long after you read it?
- What genre would you categorize The Last Thing He Told Me as -- mystery, thriller, suspense, family drama, or something else?
- Have you ever been surprised by discovering a secret or another side to someone you love?
- Can we ever fully know someone?
- The Last Thing He Told Me became an instant #1 *New York Times* bestseller. Why do you think it was so popular so fast?
- Why do you think Reese Witherspoon selected The Last Thing He Told Me as a book club selection?
- How do you compare The Last Thing He Told Me to other Reese Witherspoon book club picks?
- The Last Thing He Told Me has "unputdownable" qualities. How quickly did you read it?
- If you know anything about the adaptation of The Last Thing He Told Me, discuss it.
- What is the theme of The Last Thing He Told Me?
- What does the ending of The Last Thing He Told Me mean?
- Author Laura Dave created an AMAZING Spotify playlist of the songs that inspired The Last Thing He Told Me. Why do you think she selected these songs?
- Of note, Dave told Variety that “[i]t took more than 13,000 plays of the Bruce Springsteen song “If I Should Fall Behind” — a live version recorded with the E Street Band at

Madison Square Garden — to help [her] finish [the book].” Listen to the song and discuss how it related to the book.