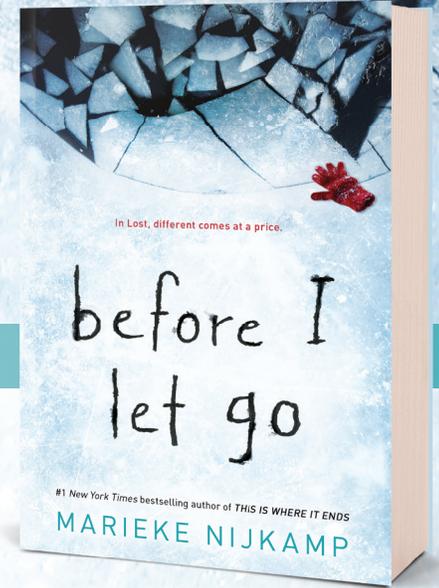


before I let go

DISCUSSION GUIDE

MARIEKE NIJKAMP

#1 New York Times Bestselling Author of *This Is Where It Ends*



QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BOOK

1. Do you believe Kyra's paintings showed the future? Do you believe it matters if they did?
2. The way the people of Lost Creek reacted to Kyra's illness changed while Corey was away. Describe how it changed. Do you think the people of Lost Creek ever truly accepted Kyra for who she was? Why do you think that is?
3. Corey's search for answers is interspersed with letters from Kyra, telling her side of the story. If you could take one of those letters and write a letter back to Kyra, which one would it be, and what would you say?

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SETTING

4. All the people of Lost Creek reacted differently to Kyra's illness. Choose two characters and describe how they responded. Do you agree with the decisions they made? How might you have acted differently?
5. Lost Creek was a gold rush and mining town. How did the closing of the mines affect the town? How do you think that changed its people?
6. Kyra said of Lost Creek that everyone lived on stolen land and stolen time. What do you think she meant by that?

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CHARACTERS

COREY

7. Corey struggles to keep in touch with Kyra after she moves away. She doesn't always want to be reminded of Lost Creek. She says it was easier to belong at St. James. Do you think that's fair? What might you have done in her shoes?
8. Do you feel Corey is (partly or at all) responsible for what happened to Kyra? Why or why not?
9. "We'll build a bridge. A bridge between us." If you could build a magical bridge from where you are now to anywhere in the world—or to any person in the world—where would it lead and why?

KYRA

10. When Kyra and Corey talk about belonging, Kyra tells Corey she doesn't want to be loved despite her illness, nor hated because of it, but she wants people to respond to her for all that she is, with all that she is. What do you think she means by that?
11. On the topic of hero days, Kyra says, "We fight fear itself. And we win." What is she most afraid of, and how does she fight against it? What are you most afraid of, and how do you fight against it?
12. In the end, Kyra loved stories. She once told Corey, "We could all do with more heroes and tricksters and storytellers." So instead of letting her tell a story, what story would you tell?