

"SPARE, POIGNANT, AND WITH A QUIRKY CHARM ALL OF ITS OWN, IT REMINDS US HOW KIND PEOPLE CAN BE."

—RACHEL JOYCE, author of the *New York Times* bestseller *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*

A THE Z
TO
OF
YOU
AND
ME

James Hannah

Reading Group Guide

1. Why do you think Ivo chose to address his stories directly to Mia, referring to her as “You”?
2. How did your perception of Ivo change throughout the book? As the picture of his lifestyle, choices, and friendships came into focus, did you grow to like or dislike him more?
3. What do you think appeals to Mia about Ivo?
4. What could Ivo have done to salvage his relationship with Mia? Would it have changed anything, or would the outcome of the book still have been the same?
5. Mia and Mal are arguably the two most important people

in Ivo's life, but between them, they have a complicated relationship. Why do you believe their interactions are so difficult?

6. Who is to blame for Mia's death?
7. What do you think happens to Mal after we leave him?
8. *The A to Z of You and Me* jumps back and forth in time through Ivo's life. In your opinion, did that help to paint a fuller picture of him, or did you wish the book had followed a more linear structure?
9. How does Ivo's humor and attitude change as the book progresses? Does the seriousness of his situation reflect back in the body parts and stories he chooses?
10. To what extent do you blame Ivo for the situation he is in?
11. Was there a story in the A to Z game that resonated more strongly with you than others? If so, why was it particularly affecting?
12. Ivo's death doesn't come as a surprise, as the novel revolves around his stay in hospice. How did your general expectation of the ending affect your experience of the book?

13. If you had to pick a letter of the alphabet and tell a story of your life, what would it be?
14. In your last days on earth, what would you choose to remember?
15. “Love ends at death. Does it?” Discuss what you think and how Ivo, Mia, or other characters throughout the book support your opinion.