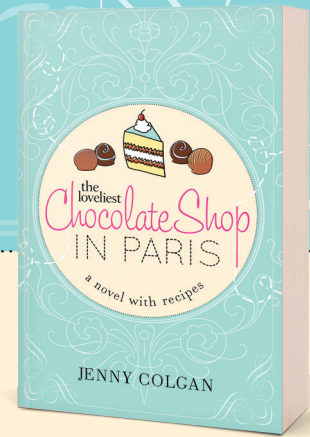


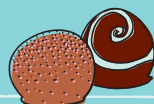


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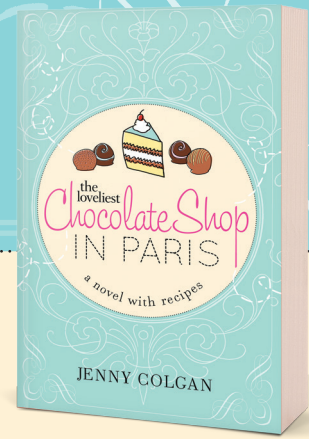
Discussion Guide

1. Claire arranges Anna's trip to France because she carries the memories of her time there years before so warmly in her heart. To what place from your past or present would you send someone a generation younger? Why would you send them there?
2. Anna's accident forces her to change parts of her lifestyle and attitude. Have you ever experienced a major, unexpected change that forced you to adjust your way of living? Why can it be difficult to embrace change and new experiences?
3. In Anna's hesitation to travel to France, she shows her fear of trying something new. What are some ways that you prepare for the unknown?
4. Claire grapples with her parents' expectations of her—especially the Reverend's. Did you feel that you had certain expectations to meet as a child? How did you feel when you met—or didn't meet—them? Discuss an instance in which you found yourself placing expectations on someone else. When is it fair to do so?
5. Anna moves away to France, but Cath stays behind. Do you think she would have gone with a little more persuasion from Anna? Should she have stayed in a familiar place or taken a leap of faith and moved? Have you ever felt stuck in one place or left behind by a friend? How did you make yourself feel unstuck?
6. Le Chapeau Chocolat de Thierry Girard has a prominent place in its community. What businesses are pillars in your community? What characteristics do community leaders have to have in order to succeed in running such prominent businesses?
7. Anna often points out the differences between factory-made and handmade chocolate. What are some foods you prefer to make yourself, rather than purchase premade? How do you think our society's view of factory-made foods has changed over the years?
8. Laurent takes Anna to Salvatore's, a family favorite. Does your family have a "regular" spot? What, if any, traditions does your family pass down to the next generations and their spouses?
9. Surrounded by French women with thin figures, Laurent is struck by Anna's unique body image and presence. How much of our perception of women's bodies are shaped by what we





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read and see in media versus cultural reality? How do you reconcile these differences?

10. Arguably, Anna is Claire's foil throughout her journey in France. How do aspects of Anna's personality show qualities that Claire is lacking? In what ways are their personalities similar?
11. Inspired by *The Bucket List*, Claire makes her own. What would you have on your Bucket List?
12. How could Thierry and Laurent have resolved their feud more quickly?
13. When she embraces Richard before he leaves, Claire admits to wishing she had appreciated the happiness she felt in the past. What are some healthy ways to live without regrets?
14. Why do you think Richard drove Claire to the ferry? Does his being in a relationship with Anne-Marie take away from his last meeting with Claire?
15. Consider the technology available during Thierry and Claire's early relationship. How might their relationship have run its course differently had they had more modern ways of keeping in contact?

