



# BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

In *The Last Poem*, the characters use poetry to express grief and connection, and poems are woven throughout the story. Has poetry played a role in your own life, or, if not, do you feel inspired to read more poetry after this book?

Imagine you could step into Everston, Colorado for one day. What would you want to experience or discover there?

*"It's like grief is this...weird, unofficial, shitty club"* (page 154). This book suggests that grief can be both deeply personal and shared. How do you think community plays a role in helping us carry loss?

Which character from *Misery Loves Company* would you want to grab a coffee, tea or wine with, and why?

How did *The Last Poem's* exploration of grief reflect or differ from your own understanding of loss?

Is there a particular line or metaphor that stayed with you after reading? If so, why do you think it had such an impact?



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All the characters from the grief support group are mourning a loved one, or are dealing with a traumatic experience. Yet they also find joy in what they have, or what second chances come their way. What does this suggest about the ways love and memory live on?

At Misery Loves Company's first meeting, Max uses the extended simile of the stained jacket (page 186) to illustrate that grief changes over time. Could you see that happening with any of the characters in this story?

According to Wren and Emerson, ravens symbolize death, change and rebirth, whereas bluebirds symbolize joy and hope. Can these two ideas coexist?

*The Last Poem* explores both grief and joy – did parts of this book make you laugh, or cry, or both?

If *The Last Poem* was a mood, what would it be: a rainy day with tea; a sunset hike through the mountains; a cozy late night by the fire; or something else?

The background is a watercolor illustration of a town street. The sky is a light blue gradient with several falling leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and red. The street is lined with colorful buildings in shades of brown, purple, red, blue, and green. A brick building on the left has a sign that says 'LIBRARY'. Other buildings have signs for 'SMITHEY'S CO.', 'BREAD MANIA', and 'Merrill's Arts & Gift Shop'. There are several evergreen trees of varying sizes scattered throughout the scene.

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If this book had a soundtrack, what song would you add to it?

If you could place *The Last Poem* in the hands of someone in your life, who would it be, and what do you hope they would take from it?

What's one word you'd use to capture how you felt when you finished the book?

## The Last Poem

COURTNEY  
PEPPERNEILL