

Topics & Questions for Discussion

1. What scenes from *This Happened to Me* made the greatest impact on you? Which were the most shocking, the most inspiring, the most transformative?
2. The first story Kate tells of her childhood is that of going to the annual agricultural fair with her family. Why do you think she opens with that setting, and how does it foreshadow her father's role in the family?
3. Kate's father told her she "made him do bad things" (p. 34). Why was this statement so important for him? What did it mean in the greater context of the book and for Price?
4. Price finds "Chicken Plucker" on her father's CB radio despite being scared of the possible ramifications. How does her curiosity in the face of the threat of violence set the course for the rest of the memoir?
5. The role of Kate's mother is a complicated one. Were you surprised Kate's mother told Gloria about her children's exploitation? Why did you think she never told Kate that she knew about her exploitation, even when she knew she was dying?
6. Describe Kate's relationship with Sissy and discuss how their connection changes over time.
7. The two major settings of the memoir – Appalachia and Cambridge/Boston -- feel distinct. What effect did such a big move have on Kate -- and on your reading of the story? How did she ultimately reconcile these two very different places in her life?
8. Dreaming of having her own happy family like Kate witnessed at her friend's Fourth Street house was a major motivator for her to establish a goal for herself and heal. How do you think Kate's childhood affected her ability to create her own book-filled home? Her ability to be a partner and mother?
9. Kate never pressed charges against her father. Did you find this frustrating or did you accept and understand her reasons for not pursuing this? Do you feel satisfied with where Kate has ended up in her life versus her father's years after leaving the family?
10. How can we, as a society, help stop child sex trafficking? How can we support victims?
11. What role did keeping secrets play in this book and in Kate and her family's lives?