



FANS OF THE IMPOSSIBLE LIFE

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ABOUT THE BOOK

This is the story of a girl, her gay best friend, and the boy in love with both of them.

Ten months after her recurring depression landed her in the hospital, Mira is starting over as a new student at Saint Francis Prep.

Jeremy is the painfully shy art nerd at Saint Francis who's been in self-imposed isolation after an incident that ruined his last year of school.

Sebby, Mira's gay best friend, is a boy who seems to carry sunlight around with him like a backlit halo. Even as life in his foster home starts to take its toll, Sebby and Mira together craft a world of magic rituals and secret road trips, designed to fix the broken parts of their lives.

As Jeremy finds himself drawn into Sebby and Mira's world, he begins to understand the secrets that they hide in order to protect themselves, to keep each other safe from those who don't understand their quest to live for the impossible.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The author has chosen three different narration styles throughout the book: Jeremy's chapters are told in first person, Mira's are told in third person, and Sebby's are told in second person. How does the story's narration style influence your perception of each character?
2. Throughout the book Sebby engages in risky behavior like stealing, drinking, doing drugs, and skipping school. Why do you think he makes these choices?
3. What is your opinion of Peter? Is he a good teacher? Why do you think all his students feel they can come to him for help over other adults in their lives? Why is his "history of walking a fine line with students" problematic in the eyes of people like Dean Pike (p. 332)?
4. Mira's "room only really provided a safe space to fall apart" (p.99). Do you have a safe space to fall apart? Why do you think it's important that Mira has this safe space?
5. Peter explains to Mira "that there was something in me that I was afraid to show other people. And I needed to find a place of strength to look inside and figure out what was trying to get out, and then, you know, embrace it. Be myself" (p. 138-139). What is it that Mira, Jeremy, and Sebby are hiding that they're afraid to show other people? What would you say is each character's place of strength?
6. Jeremy says, "There are problems that go along with becoming a person who needs other people" (p. 238). What problems do you think he's referring to?
7. During their ritual, Mira declares she wants to get rid of "the demons of sadness. The aches of daily life. The reasons not to live." For Jeremy it is "being afraid," and for Sebby it is "being alone." What is "something you would give anything to get rid of" (p. 115-116)?
8. Why do you think Jeremy keeps anticipating that his friendship with Mira and Sebby will end just as suddenly as it began?
9. What is your opinion of Tilly? Do you agree with her when she tells Sebby, "I did everything I could for you" (p. 319)?
10. Why do you think Sebby and Mira think it is "a huge deal" that Jeremy kept his dad's a secret (p. 172)?
11. Why do you think Sebby continually turns away from all the people who try to help him? How might his story have been different if he had accepted help?
12. Were Mira and Jeremy right in going to Peter and the police for help when Sebby went missing? Why or why not?
13. In Sebby's narration it says, "But you had always been walking along the edge of it, and now that it was here you weren't surprised. You always knew that this was coming" (p. 337). What is the "it" Sebby refers to? What role does self-fulfilling prophecy play in the outcome of Sebby's story?
14. Reread the first and last pages of the story. How do you think or hope Sebby's story will continue?

Book Club Pick!

