

# Almost True

## Discussion and Book Club Questions



1. Do you think Grace will ever forgive her mother? If a person close to you lied about something so big, could you forgive them?
2. Are Gemma and Lu right? Are the sins of the mother also the sins of the daughter?
3. Grace names her anxiety, Harry, after her grandfather. If you were going to name your anxiety, what would you call it and why?
4. *Almost True* explores loss in many different ways – death, ghosting by friends, betrayal by a parent. Do all losses feel the same to Grace? If not, how do they differ?
5. There are four songs that Grace writes in the story. How does the tone of each song and the lyrics reflect the changes in Grace as the story unfolds?
6. If you were a blank page like Grace in Plainville and had the chance for a do-over, would you take it? If so, who would you become? What would you change?
7. Grace has to unlock her phone and turn it over to the FBI. Her thoughts at that moment, “Humiliation pulses through my body as my private world is forced open. All my texts. All my pics. All my music.” How would you feel if you had to give your phone and all it holds over to a stranger? Mad? Embarrassed? Scared? What secrets are hiding in your phone?
8. In the song, *Almost True*, Grace writes: “It’s almost true, I’m almost there. A life of Grace, a song to share. Own the air I breathe.” What do you think she means?
9. Why do you believe that Grace can see Max? Is it her wild imagination? A superpower? Empathy? Powerful connection?

10. How does Grace's relationship with her mother influence her decision to become Summer Stone?

11. How are Grace Millstein and Summer Stone different? How are they alike? Which one would befriend and why?

12. In the story, Gemma says, "Everything in Lu's life is about Chapman and reputation and the right clothes, right school, right friends, right parents." Is Gemma right? Is this all that matters to Lu? If so, why was she ever part of the Three Forever? And why do you think these things matter so much to her?

13. What role does the dog Donut fill in Grace's journey?

14. Why do you think Max wants Grace to have his lucky pick?

15. "Mom's big on rules. She's constantly telling me, "Grace, rules are the guideposts of life." Like, no phones at the table. Lights out at ten. Homework before texting. Or the stuff she just calls rules, like green juice and a banana every day. Rejection is the world telling you to get creative. Never let them see you scared." What do you think of Grace's mom's philosophy on rules? Does Grace really need these to navigate her life?

16. In the song, What is Left of You?, Grace writes:

*There is no one color. No one shoe. No one person. Just one you.*

*The colors mesh. The shoe drops.*

*What is left of you?*

What do you think she means? And what do the words we choose to share, say about who we are and what we are going through?

17. Why do you think Grace's mother kept pursuing her business even when things seemed to be going wrong? Why is it so hard to admit when our plans don't go as we hoped?

18. After the story broke about Jade Wren, Gemma and Lu stopped talking to Grace. Consider both sides for a moment. What would you do if you were Grace? And what would you do if you were Gemma and Lu?

19. Grace says to her mother, "And trust *you*?" I practically choke on these words. "Are you serious? I'll never trust you again. Not now. Not ever." Why does trust take such a long time to build and such a short time to break?

20. At the end of the story, Grace finally reads her mom's letters. What do you think happens next? Does Grace reach out to her mom? Would you?

