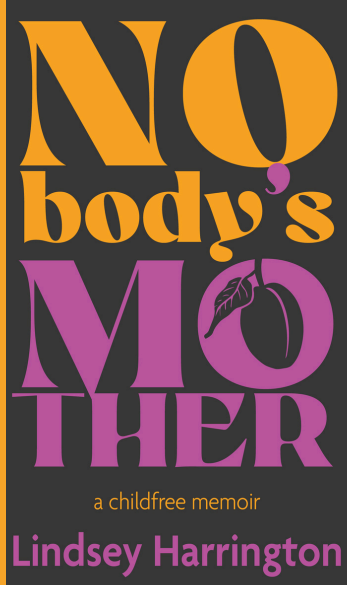
BOOK club KIT



book-specific questions

1. Nobody's Mother opens with a tense phone call between Lindsey and her mother during the pandemic. Why do you think she made this choice? Was it the right one?

2. The memoir's second chapter transports us back to Lindsey's kindergarten Christmas concert, where she played the Virgin Mary. How did this time jump land for you?

3. This book is written in mostly chronological order, with the author trying to inhabit her childhood, coming of age, and young adulthood. Was she successful? How did the structure shape your reading experience?

4. How did Lindsey's perceptions of marriage and motherhood evolve (and devolve) over the course of the story?

5. Lindsey realizes she didn't want children over a series of experiences and relationships (running away from her younger brother, taking care of a baby bird, mothering a boyfriend, being a stepmother). Which resonated the most with you and why?

6. Where did Lindsey get validation at various points in the book? Did she ever land in a healthy place?

7. What role did the settings of Newfoundland (rural and urban) and Nova Scotia play in the memoir? Would the story have changed drastically if the setting did?

8. What role did the natural environment play in Lindsey's mental health and in the book? How were plums used as a metaphor?

9. Lindsey is not always the most likable character. What was her least and most likable moment? Did you understand and empathize with her?

10. The author was triggered when people call her a dog mom, or the mother of stories, or centred children in conversation. Why do you think that is? Was she justified?

11. Female friendship and mother-daughter relationships were major themes in this book. Did your perceptions of these concepts change through reading it?

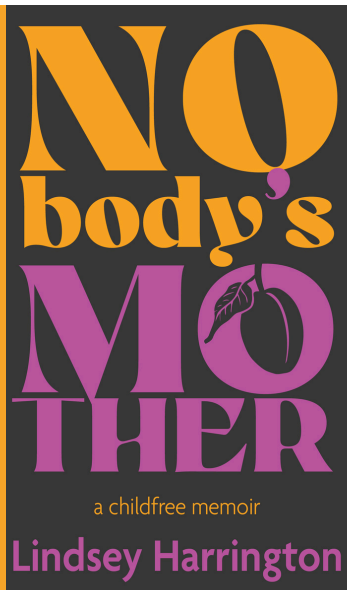
12. Do you think Lindsey would have made a good mother? Would she have found joy in the role? Does it matter?

13. How did this book compare and contrast to other books about motherhood and otherhood you have read?

14. Memoir is murky, clouded by perceptions and the porous nature of memory. How do you think the narrator handles this?

15. Nobody's Mother also ends with a phone call with Lindsey's mother. How was this conversation different from the introductory call? How was it the same? Did it provide enough resolution?

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personal and thematic questions

1. How did Lindsey's experience compare and contrast with your own experience around the parenthood decision?

2. Have ever felt pressure around your 'to be or not to be (a parent)' decision? What about with any other major life decisions?

3. What role do societal expectations play in our self-worth, especially regarding milestones and aging?

4. What were the common narratives around sex, marriage, and motherhood when you were growing up? How has that shaped you?

5. Marystown was rural and religious, which also shaped Lindsey's views on marriage and children. How does your experience compare?

6. How has the conversation around milestones like marriage and children changed overtime? How might it change in the future?

7. What other life milestones are worth celebrating?

8. Mother-daughter dynamics can be complicated. How does your mother-daughter relationship compare with that of Lindsey and her mother?

9. Female friendship is also a major throughline of this book. Do you think female friendship is special? Why or why not?

10. Are you still friends with your childhood best friend? Is that important?

11. Have you ever moved cities? How did your experience compare and contrast with Lindsey's?

12. Mental health issues can manifest in many ways; this was especially true during the pandemic. What were your experiences during that time?

13. If you were to write a memoir, what would be the topic and themes and why?