



An Open Book

Discussion Guide for *All That Really Matters*

- 1 Do you think Silas's first impression of Molly was fair? Why or why not?
- 2 Speaking about two boys on the waiting list for The Bridge, Silas says, "Not only had our system failed them, but so had we. So had I." Do you think it's a good or bad thing that Silas takes so much responsibility for youth in the foster care system?
- 3 When Molly confessed to Silas about her motives for volunteering halfway through the book, he responded with grace rather than anger. Do you think it was a good response, even though he'd been lied to? Why do you think it was easy for him to forgive Molly but difficult for him to forgive his brother Carlos?
- 4 At one point, Miles advises his sister to find the balance "of helping without overstepping. It's difficult to see real needs and not want to rush the process to appease our own desire for restoration." How did Silas and others at The Bridge strive to find that balance? Did Molly learn to find this balance over the course of the story?

- 5 Do you think Molly responded appropriately to the surprise Tubee photoshoot request and its aftermath? Do you think that was a turning point in her story?

- 6 What do you think of Molly's impulsive live video to her audience after cutting her hair? Do you think a message like that in real life would get the attention it did in the book? Why or why not?

- 7 In what ways did Molly's relationship to social media change over the course of the novel? What do you think was responsible for those changes?

- 8 Silas says, "Love lives in the hard places with us because that's what sets it apart. That's what makes it love." How do you see this in Silas's relationship with Molly? In Molly's relationship with her brother, or Val, or the young women at The Bridge?

- 9 Molly and Silas are an opposites-attract kind of couple. What do you think makes them good for each other?

- 10 Did Ethan's vindictive actions at the end of the book surprise you, or did you expect that Molly wasn't through with him and his manipulation?