



An Open Book

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR *BEFORE I CALLED YOU MINE*

1. Jenna, her husband, and the Cartwrights were all supportive of Lauren throughout the story. How do you think the story would have been different without them?
2. What was your initial impression of Joshua, and did it change over the course of the story?
3. Early in the book, Gail Cartwright tells Lauren, "I know the wait can feel excruciating while on this side of things, but it's not in vain. There is purpose in the waiting." Is this something that would be helpful for you to hear during a time of waiting?
4. Do you think Lauren should have told her family from the very beginning that she was starting the adoption process? Why or why not?
5. What did you think about the author's inclusion of text messages throughout the book? Did they add a touch of realism, or did you find them distracting?
6. Lauren's sister Lisa told her, "Saying yes to a baby won't fix what's messed up with you or your family." Do you agree with this statement? In what ways do you think Lisa and Lauren are similar, and in what ways are they different?
7. Which of the holiday traditions or scenes did you enjoy the most? Does your family share any traditions with the characters?
8. In what ways did the author try to help you feel Lauren's loss when her adoption of Noah fell through? Did it work for you?
9. Was there anything you thought was good about Lauren's decision to go forward with a relationship with Joshua? Was there anything you felt was unwise about it?
10. At what point in the story were you the most concerned about Lauren? What made you feel this way?

11. If you had to choose one, were you more invested in finding out whether Lauren and Joshua would end up together, or with Lauren's adoption journey?
12. Nicole Deese adopted a little girl from China, and Lauren's emotional journey is heavily based on the author's own. Does knowing that change how you read the book?