

Suddenly Color: A Sacred Grounds Novel Book 2

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Discussion Guide

1. How did you feel, or what kind of mood were you in, as you were reading *Suddenly Color*? Did your mood change as you were reading different parts of the novel? Why do you think this was the case?
2. Which scene from *Suddenly Color* have you thought about most? Why?
3. The novel begins with Joanna asking Kat if she's looking for something. What are the different things Kat is looking for throughout the novel? What are the things Paul is looking for? To what extent do they find what they're looking for by the end of the story?
4. How would you characterize Kat based on her reluctance to tell her friends and family about how she's feeling, both physically and emotionally? To what extent do you think Kat's reluctance is a lack of trust? The presence of fear? A desire for independence? Why else might she feel reluctant to share how she's feeling? How would you have handled those conversations with friends and family if you'd been in Kat's situation?
5. Kat feels disturbed by the new things she's learning about her grandmother's life. Why do you think that is? How would you have felt in Kat's situation?
6. Why do you think Kat's mother waited so long to give Kat this bigger picture about her grandmother's life? How do you think your own family would have handled similar information about a loved one's health?
7. In what ways does Kat's changing understanding of her grandmother's life change her understanding of her family? How does Kat use the new information about her grandmother to reflect on her own life and experiences?
8. Through the novel, Kat questions where her relationship with Paul is going and where Paul thinks it's going. What aspects of their relationship comfort Kat? What aspects concern her? Can you sympathize with her concerns? Why or why not? How would you have approached their relationship?
9. Even if you haven't read *Kat's Dreams*, the first novel in the *Sacred Grounds* series, it's clear in *Suddenly Color* that Kat feels uncomfortable in her relationship with churches. Discuss places in the novel where this issue comes up. What aspects of church allow Kat more or less comfort? Can you sympathize with any of those feelings? Why or why not?

10. Most of Kat's spirituality happens outside of religious settings. Which of her reflections on God or faith did you most resonate with? Which did you find most foreign?
11. At a couple of points, Kat tells Paul that she feels like her life is a "mess" that she isn't ready to share with anyone else. Paul responds by telling her that he's concerned his own life might not be ready to share. Do you sympathize with any of their concerns? Why or why not? Have you ever felt that way?
12. The novel follows Kat's efforts to reconcile her memories of her grandmother with the new things she's learning about her grandmother. What seems to most help Kat in making peace with what she knows of her grandmother? What seems to most help Kat's mother? What would you find most comforting or helpful if you were Kat or her mother?
13. Through much of the novel, Paul is struggling to find a good balance between work/ministry and the rest of his life, making time for things he enjoys. How well do you think he manages that balance? Do you think Kat and the various members of his church respond to his struggles in helpful ways? Why or why not? How much danger do you think there is of Paul burning out in ministry?
14. At what point in the novel did you suspect that Kat was dealing with a mood disorder? What parts of the story alerted you to that possibility? In retrospect, what clues as to Kat's condition did you miss earlier in the novel?
15. During *Suddenly Color*, Kat and Paul are in the process of defining their relationship. How did you feel about where their relationship was by the end of the novel? Kat's concerns had passed, but did any of your own concerns for them remain? What do you think will happen in their relationship after this novel ends?
16. Are there any questions that you're still thinking about as a result of reading this book?
17. Have you thought of anyone else whom you'd like to have read this book? If so, why?