

DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Lonely Hearts Book Club

- Each section in *The Lonely Hearts Book Club* is from a different character's point of view. Who did you identify with most and why? Whose literary opinions are most like your own?
- Examine the driving forces behind each character's decision to join the book club and explore the impact that becoming a part of it has on their individual lives.
- Sloane is quiet, meek, and afraid to speak up for herself until she meets Arthur. What do you think it is about Arthur that ignites a spark within her? How does Sloane change Arthur?
- Compare and contrast Arthur and Greg. What common ground do they share? How do they differ?
- At the start of the novel, Arthur prefers to be alone with his books rather than interact with his neighbors. How do his feelings toward solitude evolve by the end of the book?
- Parents and their relationships with their children are a strong central theme in the book. How is each character shaped by the parents and/or children in their life?
- The novels that the book club chooses to read mirror what's going on within the characters' lives. What book best captures your life and outlook right now?
- In the book, each main character undergoes the emotional journey of grief, but their experiences of this profound sorrow are distinct and individual. Examine the unique ways in which each character grapples with grief.
- From your perspective, does the ending to the book lean toward a happier or sadder tone? What message did you ultimately take away from the novel?
- Who would play each character in a movie version of this book?

