

ALWAYS BRAVE, SOMETIMES KIND QUESTIONNAIRE

1 Many of the characters in *Always Brave, Sometimes Kind* are deeply flawed individuals. Did these flaws make it easier or more difficult to relate to the characters?

2 Who was your least favourite character? Why?
What was their motivation for behaving in the way they did?

3 What character did you relate to most? Why?

4 If you could sit down and chat with any of the characters from *Always Brave, Sometimes Kind*, who would it be? What questions would you ask them?

5 If you had to insert yourself into the story and choose one character to embody, who would it be?

6 Throughout the book, big moments in contemporary Albertan history are referenced. Do you remember any of these events? Which ones?

7 Were there any secondary characters who you wish had their own chapter?

8 One of the book's themes is lost things returning: the baggy that is stolen from Mrs. Simpson makes its way back to her by the last chapter, as does the ring Shannon pawns to save her sister. Considering this, what future do you envision for Jude, Amy, and Miranda?

9 Do you think Lacey was right in telling Jim what happened at the Hockey Association Christmas Party?

10 If Al had told Patricia how he was making the bulk of the family's income, how do you think she would have reacted?

11 Do you think Jude and Zoe will stay together? Will Miranda and Grayson?

12 Why do you think the author choose the title *Always Brave, Sometimes Kind*? How does it connect to the overall story?

13 There are many ugly moments in this novel, where characters treat one another with terrible cruelty. But there are kind moments too. What do you think was the sweetest exchange between two characters?

14 What character grew or evolved the most through the course of the book?

15 Going back to question 3, what do you imagine the future holds for your favourite character?

16 This book depicts many ways in which western societal issues - past and present - contribute to the epidemic of violence against women and family and/or child displacement/estrangement. What are some of the issues in the book that led to estrangement, violence or missing people? What can we do in our own lives to address these issues?

