



Book Club

Discussion Questions

The Places I've Cried in Public
– Holly Bourne

1. Reese constantly makes Amelie doubt herself and her actions. How does this 'gaslighting' link to the book's wider theme of control?
2. How does Amelie's relationship with Reese compare with her previous relationship with Alfie? Why do you think this comparison is important?
3. How do you think the book's frame narrative helps Amelie reflect upon her relationship with Reese? How does her relationship with her counsellor Joan help her to unpick the elements of her relationship and see them differently?
4. When Reese gate-crashes the end of Amelie's gig with a song just for her, her friends and family are outraged on her behalf. However Amelie sees this as a beautifully romantic gesture. Discuss two further instances in the book where Reese's behaviour blurs the boundaries between romantic and creepy.
5. How do you think the relationship that Reese has with his parents could have affected his relationship with Amelie/the way he treats her?
6. How could Reese's treatment of his band be seen as a red flag?
7. Reese tells Amelie "If it doesn't hurt, it's not love." How is this statement a warped view of love? How does it apply to their relationship?
8. Why is Amelie's friendship with Hannah so important?
9. Amelie constantly alters her behaviour for Reese. On their trip to London she pretends not to be able to work out the treasure hunt clues and says 'I'd never pretended to be lesser before that day.' Why does she pretend to 'be lesser'? How does this almost become a self-fulfilling prophecy for her?
10. The word 'crazy' is a weapon that Reese uses against Amelie as their relationship becomes more and more unhealthy. How does this manipulate her further?

