

MOMENT IN TIME

Discussion Questions

1. In *Chloe* categorizes people into breeds of dogs based on their personalities—golden retrievers, chows, mutts, Dobermans. If you were a dog, what breed do you think you'd be and why?
2. Mo leaves Hazel in the bar alone with Allen to take the call from Kyle. Because of that, she thinks she is to blame for what happened. Do you think she is responsible?
3. Ruby plays an important role in the story; her canine story line of emotional healing after being abandoned and finding someone new to love runs parallel to *Chloe's*. Do you think we can learn from dogs when it comes to forgiveness and moving on, or do human egos and our unique capacity for long-standing resentment make that impossible?
4. Officer Gretzky is an uncaring jerk when he takes the report about the rape. *Chloe*, irritated by his attitude, puts Ex-Lax in his coffee. Do you think what she does is justified? Do you think it's funny, cruel, criminal? Have you ever done anything like that?
5. "The power of right is a greater might than thou can'st think or speak." This is the final line in the poem left by Hazel, and it explains why she killed the doctor in Bend. Do you think there are times when it is justified to step outside the laws of society in order to protect it?
6. Mo lies to Kyle. She keeps secrets and makes life-altering decisions without him. Do you think keeping the truth from him in order to protect Hazel is justified? If he finds out the truth, how do you think it will affect their relationship?
7. Allen's brother, James, feels guilty when he sees Mo because he knows about his brother's proclivities. How far would you go to protect someone you love? Would you lie for them? If asked under oath if they'd committed a crime, would you perjure yourself?
8. "Sadness doesn't last forever." There are several references throughout the story to this theme. While the accident eight years ago still has ripple effects on Mo's and *Chloe's* lives, both believe time heals most wounds. How do you feel about that? Does grief grow lighter with time? How about regret?
9. "What is it about revenge that makes it so intoxicating?" This is another underlying theme throughout the book. "Addictive as heroin or crack, it seems to entirely take over a person, toxic and destructive, until it razes every- thing around it." Allen, Gretzky, Hazel, Mo, *Chloe*—all of them experience the festering desire for retaliation, and each acts on it differently, leading to some catastrophic consequences. Have you ever held a grudge or had a grudge held against you? Do you think acting on those feelings ultimately helps or only makes things worse?
10. Do you have a bucket list place—a single place you absolutely have to go in this lifetime?
11. Hunter says Allen is a "bad egg," and while *Chloe* likes the idea of an eggicator that flushes bad eggs away, she doesn't believe eggs start off bad. What do you think: Are bad eggs born bad, or does something happen to make them bad? Can bad eggs be redeemed?

12. Chloe turns out to be the one who roofied Allen and left him in the Tenderloin. Unlike Hazel's, the act was not premeditated and was more of an impulsive choice meant to give Allen "a dose of his own medicine." But Allen ended up in a coma because of it. How do you feel about what she did? Should she have been punished?
13. How do you feel about the epidemic of date rape that is plaguing our society and our legal system's lack of ability to deal with these crimes? What do you think can be done about the problem?
14. There are a lot of references in the book to heroes. Who do you think is most heroic: Mo, Chloe, Hazel, Kyle, Hunter . . . Ruby?
15. An ember of Finn still glows inside Chloe, and she carries Oz's memory close to her heart and lives her life in honor of him. Have you ever lost someone yet still felt their presence, like their passing profoundly altered you or the memory of them is guiding you?
16. Who is your favorite character? Why?
17. Movie time: Who would you like to see play each part?