

## **DISCUSSION & READING GUIDE**

- 1. The author describes Ben's experiences as similar to their own, what do you think are the drawbacks of writing stories that are so true to the author's life or identity?
- 2. What specific emotions or feelings did this book make you feel?
- 3. The title of the book appears several times in the story, how do you think the title related to those scenes?
- 4. Ben finds it impossible to forgive their parents for what they did to them. What elements of forgiveness do you think the author wanted to explore? Would you forgive Ben's parents if you were in a similar position?
- 5. The author explores the importance of online friendships. How did Ben's friendship with Mariam impact them? What do you think the positives and negatives of online friendships are?
- 6. It takes Ben a majority of the book to come out to Nathan, despite them believing that Nathan will accept them. Why do you think it took Ben so long to come out? What does the book say about the coming out experience?
- 7. Ben's point of view is very internal and focused on themself. How do you think this positively or negatively impacted the book? How do you think it relates to Ben's trauma and anxiety?
- 8. What do you think the cover says about the story? What ideas did it give you before you read the book?
- 9. Waffles or pancakes?
- 10. After Ben's own parents reject them, they spend much of the book building their own family that accepts them in the end. What relationships stood out to you the most? Why?
- 11. Towards the end of the book, Ben is able to forgive Hannah for what she's done. What do you think of the difference in these relationships? Why is Ben able to forgive Hannah? Does their relationship feel healed?
- 12. What quotes, scenes, or moments stuck out to you the most?
- 13. What questions would you ask the author given the chance?