

READING GROUP GUIDE

THE LITTLE THINGS that KILL

Thank you for choosing **The Little Things That Kill: A Teen Friendship Afterlife Apology Tour** as your book club selection.

This reader's guide includes suggested questions intended to help your group find interesting angles and topics for discussion. I hope these ideas enrich your conversation and increase your enjoyment of my novel.

In friendship,



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. During her journey on the platform and at Substation 15, Nicole's experiences are mind-blowing. How do these settings contribute to her understanding of what's going on?
2. How does Isabel's witchiness impact her friendship with Nicole (before and after Nicole's death)? How did Nicole take advantage of Isabel's gifts? In what ways did she mock her?
3. Cassie is a tough girl not to be messed with, yet she shows signs of vulnerability and a caring heart. What were some of those signs? Who have you known who initially appeared tough or prickly then proved themselves to be very different?

4. Nicole's dad doesn't have many contemporaneous scenes, but through Nicole's memories and Dad's "non-negotiable truths" he has a strong presence in the book. What person continues to influence you even though they may no longer be a part of your life?
5. Grace is kind and friendly, but also part of the Mentor culture on Substation 15. Given her history of getting in trouble, why does she risk more trouble to help Nicole?
6. There are several mothers in this story: Mandy, Buzz-Kill, and Michelle. In what ways are these three women alike and different?
7. In what ways is Mr. Robert (who has no biological children) a key father figure?
8. Why does Isabel rely so heavily on the Goddess Eternal, her Wiccan rituals, and her witchy paraphernalia? Why did losing her crystal necklace impact her the way it did?
9. If you had to face an afterlife Evaluation and a look-back at your choices, what choice might you like revisit? What would be one of your proudest accomplishments?
10. Memory plays a major role in this novel. How do strong emotions impact memory? Have you and another person ever compared memories of a shared experience only to discover you each remembered it differently? Were you able to agree on The Truth? Which version of that past experience do you remember now?
11. During her time on Substation 15 and her afterlife apology tour on Earth, in what important ways did Nicole *Learn and Progress*?
12. In what ways did the end of each girl's story satisfy you? Fail to satisfy? How would you have changed any of the endings?
13. Why did the author include the Epilogue? Was it necessary? Unnecessary?
14. What are your thoughts about reincarnation? Possible? Impossible? A comforting idea?

