



BOOK CLUB KITS

THIS KIT CONTAINS

- ◆ 11 Regular Hardcover Copies
- ◆ 1 Book on CD

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

WISH YOU WERE HERE BY JODI PICOULT

- 1) What was it like to revisit March 2020 right at the moment the world changed as we entered the pandemic? Did the author capture what it felt like when everything started? Was it strange to think back to that time? What emotions and thoughts came up as you started to read?
- 2) Diana was trapped in the Galápagos, unable to return to New York City due to travel restrictions. But she managed to make friends and explore the island every day. Do you think she would have been more or less isolated if she had stayed in the city?
- 3) Diana chooses to stay on Isabela, even though she knows it might mean getting stuck there. Would you have made the same decision? Has there ever been a time in your life when you made a split-second decision that surprised you?
- 4) When Diana realizes she is stuck without any resources on the island, she is rescued by the generosity of Abuela. How does Abuela's instinct to come to a stranger's aid compare to Gabriel's instinct to preserve the needs of himself and his family first? Is one or the other's motivations better justified?
- 5) Think about how Diana and Gabriel's relationship evolves over the course of the book. How does their understanding of one another compare to the way Diana and Finn relate?
- 6) Why do you think Diana was able to form such a close bond with Beatriz? What can the book teach us about mental health and how to help those who are struggling?
- 7) What did you think about the revelation that Diana didn't physically get stranded on Isabela after all? Did you see the twist coming, or did it surprise you?
- 8) Do you think unconscious, lucid experiences like Diana's have meaning? Are these experiences "real" in some way?
- 9) Diana insists that she must have gotten Covid and imagined her time at the Galápagos for a reason, while Finn believes that "viruses don't need reasons." What do you think about the way other people (Finn, Dr. DeSantos, Rodney, others) react to Diana's experience?
- 10) *Wish You Were Here* deals with the pandemic in ways that can be intense. Jodi Picoult even discusses in her Author's Note that she struggled with finding a way to process these unprecedented events, and wondered: "How do we tell the tale of how the world shut down, and why, and what we learned?" How did reading about the pandemic compare to experiencing it? What kinds of emotions and reflections did the book bring up for you? What parts of the early pandemic had you already forgotten?