

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION
WIDOWISH, A MEMOIR
by MELISSA GOULD

1. Starting with the title, what did you expect the book to be about? Do you think that calling the book *Widowish* accurately describes what the author experienced?
2. Did the book make you question your own ideas about widowhood and grief? How are your ideas different and/or similar?
3. The author really tackles some very difficult subjects, including whether or not to end her husband's life. Did her decision challenge your own thoughts and ideas about life support? What does "quality of life" mean to you?
4. Which scenes in the hospital stand out the most to you? Why?
5. *Widowish* has been described as the funniest/ saddest book people have read. How do you feel about the humor with which the story gets told?
6. Melissa attributes so much of her successful marriage to the fact that she and Joel were friends for years before things got romantic between them. What did you think when they ran into each other at the Dodgers game... and then when Joel went up to see her in Seattle?
7. What do you think about Melissa's idea of being an "only parent?" Does that accurately describe her situation as a widow?
8. What did you think of the scenes between Melissa and her daughter, Sophie? Do you think you would have done things differently as a parent?
9. What do you make of Melissa's "healing arsenal" which included Joel Osteen, "doing Clooney," and the Real Housewives?
10. Melissa's friend gives her the advice to "choose easy" - how could you apply that to your own life?
11. What did you think of Marcos and Melissa's attraction to him? Do you think they make sense as a couple even though the author makes a point of showing how different they are?
12. Melissa takes Marcos to her friend Mimi's birthday party. How do you think you would have reacted to seeing the "town widow" there on a date less than a year after her husband died?
13. Would you consider *Widowish* a love story or a memoir about grief?
14. What was your biggest take-away from *Widowish*? Have certain scenes/moments stayed with you? What are they?