

Hi Reggie Gridd,

My name is Kali, and I help organize an independent reading group whose discussions center on titles aligned with the spirit and selections of Missoula Book Club. Our group is made up of thoughtful, engaged readers based in New York, and we regularly explore works that emphasize imagination, purpose, and personal transformation.

We recently spent time with *Drama Behind the Badge: I True Love Story*, and it led to one of the more emotionally grounded discussions we've had this season. What resonated immediately was the book's refusal to soften or simplify lived experience. The narrative voice feels direct and unfiltered, yet deeply reflective, allowing readers to sit with both the weight of your experiences and the clarity gained from moving through them.

Several members of our group were especially struck by how the memoir holds multiple identities at once, veteran, law enforcement officer, husband, father, without reducing any of them to a single story. The tension between public service and private struggle sparked thoughtful conversation, particularly around how strength is often expected to look stoic or silent. Your willingness to write candidly about internal battles, alongside systemic pressures, gave our group a meaningful entry point into discussions about vulnerability, resilience, and the cost of carrying too much alone.

The theme of voice, who gets to speak, who is heard, and what it takes to claim space, stood out as one of the book's most powerful throughlines. Many of us were moved by how the memoir frames speaking up not as performance, but as survival. The idea of "being loud anyway," especially in the face of exhaustion or erasure, prompted reflection on how courage often shows up quietly, in moments of choice rather than spectacle.

We also appreciated how the book balances heaviness with clarity. Even in its most difficult moments, there is a sense of forward motion, of learning, reckoning, and choosing to remain present. That balance led to a rich discussion about what healing actually looks like when it's ongoing rather than neatly resolved.

If you would be open to it, we would love to send along a small set of written book-club questions (about five to seven) that grew out of our discussion. There's no expectation beyond whatever you're comfortable sharing, and we'd be grateful for the opportunity to hear your thoughts in your own time.

Thank you for writing a book that encouraged such honest and meaningful conversation among our group. We truly appreciated the opportunity to engage with it.

Warm regards,

Kali