

## **Book Club Guide**

### **Here Boy!**

by Peter Belz

Here Boy! is a compact novella about Simon, a working actor keeping afloat as a barista, and the strange shift that follows a seemingly minor accident. As his senses sharpen beyond what feels normal, Simon begins to notice what other people miss, and what they try hard to hide.

The story is a great pick for groups that like grounded suspense, character driven tension, and books that spark conversation about trust, instinct, loyalty, and what it means to protect someone, even when you are not sure you can trust your own perceptions.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. After you finished the novella, what do you think changed most in Simon, his circumstances, or his sense of control?
2. Which moment felt like the true turning point, the point where Simon could not go back to his old normal?
3. The story emphasizes perception: sound, scent, and emotional cues. How did that lens affect your reading experience?
4. What did you make of the opening with the dog, and how did it shape the way you read everything that followed?
5. Who did you trust early on, and did that trust shift as the story unfolded? What caused the shift for you?
6. How does the novella explore the difference between instinct and fear? When does caution become avoidance, or control?
7. Simon often notices what is not said, not done, or not quite right. Which scene best shows the power, and the cost, of that kind of awareness?
8. What role does the café, as a workplace and a social space, play in the story's tension and relationships?
9. How did your feelings about Tess evolve over the course of the story? What do you think she wants, and what does she risk?

10. Otis is more than a presence, he changes choices and raises stakes. What do you think Otis represents, beyond being a dog in trouble?

11. If you could ask one character a single direct question, who would it be, and what would you ask?

12. If you had to describe Here Boy! in three words, what would they be?

### **Author Visit Option**

Author Q&A: Peter is available to join book clubs for a short Q&A, either on Zoom or in person when scheduling allows.

To request a book club visit: [Peter@PeterBelz.com](mailto:Peter@PeterBelz.com) | [PeterBelz.com](http://PeterBelz.com)