



BOOK CLUB KIT

I'LL BE YOU

A Novel

JANELLE BROWN

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Compare and contrast Sam and Elli's personalities. Which twin did you identify with most, and why?
2. Sam wonders, "Had we not been discovered by Harriet, would I have found my way to Hollywood on my own? Was acting in my genes, or was it inserted there only through Harriet's suggestion?" How would you answer those questions? How do you think Elli would answer them?
3. Both as an actor and as a twin, Sam feels that she's simultaneously always in the spotlight—and yet never really seen for who she is. Explain what she means by this. Do you agree?
4. Sam's addiction problems began when she was just a child—with pills provided by a makeup artist and with a mother who was either dangerously ignorant or looked the other way. Who do you think is really to blame?
5. Where did Sam and Elli's estrangement really begin? Was one twin more responsible than the other for the deterioration of their relationship?
6. Do you think it was fair for Chuck to leave Elli the way he did? Why or why not?
7. "You do not join a cult because cults don't advertise themselves as cults," Elli says. "You believe that joining one of these groups is just another path toward a better you." How did Elli get sucked into GenFem? Did this book make you think differently about who is susceptible to the lure of a cult? If so, how? If not, why not?
8. Did GenFem have any real benefits for its members? Where do you draw the line between the benefits and the harmful elements?
9. Did GenFem remind you of any other groups? Which ones, and why?
10. Reflecting on kidnapping Charlotte—or Emma—Elli says, "Would I have done it if [Iona] hadn't suggested it?" What do you think?
11. Both Elli and Sam are searching for something to give them hope in the face of failure. Why is hope so vital to each of them? Can hope be blinding, or even dangerous?
12. Do you think each sister's view on what being a good mother is changes over the course of the novel, and if so why?
13. GenFem sells itself as a kind of feminist group, teaching women how to be "stronger." How can female empowerment be manipulated into its opposite—disempowerment?

DRINKS

ELLI: Frosé

Ingredients

- 1 bottle rosé (750 ml)
- ⅓ cup simple syrup
- 1 oz. Aperol
- 1 oz. fresh lemon juice
- Garnish: lemon twist

Directions

1. Pour the rosé into a 13" x 9" baking pan and place in the freezer for up to 6 hours or until almost solid.
2. Remove the mixture and scrape into a blender, chopping up the larger icy bits.
3. Add the remaining ingredients along with ¾ cup crushed ice to the blender, and puree until thickened.
4. Divide evenly into coupe glasses.
5. Garnish with lemon twists.

Serves 4

SAM: Spicy Margarita

Ingredients

- 2 oz. blanco tequila
- ½ oz. orange liqueur
- 1 oz. lime juice
- ½ oz. agave syrup
- 3 jalapeño coins, seeds removed (2 for muddle, one for garnish)
- Salt rim

Directions

1. Rub rim of rocks glass with lime wedge, dip in salt to coat, set aside
2. Add 2 jalapeño coins to a shaker and gently muddle
3. Add the blanco tequila, orange liqueur, lime juice and agave syrup, plus ice, and shake until well-chilled
4. Strain into the prepared glass over fresh ice
5. Garnish with a jalapeño coin

Virgin Spicy Margarita

Ingredients

- 1 ½ oz. fresh lime juice
- 1 oz. orange juice
- ½ oz. lemon juice
- ½ oz. agave nectar
- 3 jalapeño coins, seeds removed (2 for muddle, one for garnish)
- Salt rim

Directions

1. Rub rim of rocks glass with lime wedge, dip in salt to coat, set aside
2. Add 2 jalapeño coins to a shaker and gently muddle.
3. Add all the juices and agave syrup, plus ice, and shake until well-chilled
4. Strain into the prepared glass over fresh ice
5. Garnish with a jalapeño coin

PLAYLIST

Listen to a playlist inspired by *I'll Be You* on [Spotify](#).

1. "I'll Be You" by The Replacements
2. "I'll Be Your Mirror"
by The Velvet Underground
3. "Never Tear Us Apart" by INXS
4. "Stupid Girl" by Garbage
5. "Wasted Youth" by Jenny Lewis
6. "Lost Cause" by Beck
7. "Fade into You" by Mazzy Star
8. "Lost" by Frank Ocean
9. "Rehab" by Amy Winehouse
10. "The Mother" by Brandi Carlile
11. "Magic Trick" by M. Ward
12. "Wake Up" by Arcade Fire
13. "Always Forever" by Cults
14. "Save Me" by Aimee Mann
15. "Cloud 9" by Beach Bunny
16. "It Ain't Over 'Til It's Over"
by Lenny Kravitz
17. "You've Got the Love"
by Florence + The Machine