

JACKIE FRASER

The Beginning of Everything

A READING GROUP GUIDE

1. Despite difficult circumstances, Jess perseveres and manages to stay positive. Do you remember a time when you had to endure a tough situation? How did you get through it?
2. Jess is adamant about not accepting or asking for help from others. Why do you think that is? Can you relate to Jess? Why or why not? When does this get in Jess's way and prevent her from moving forward?
3. Were you shocked by Gethin's offer to allow Jess to stay in his home for free? Have you ever showed a similar act of kindness to a stranger? If so, what compelled you in that moment?
4. Early in the novel, Jess and Gethin have a heart-to-heart about how the fear of wasting time can stop you from making positive changes in your life. Does this resonate with you in any way? Looking back on your life, do you have any regrets?
5. Gethin trusts Jess from the beginning, despite his sister's skepticism and Jess's own hesitations. Why do you think this behavior seems odd? What events have made you less trustworthy of strangers? Do you find hope in Gethin and Jess's relationship?
6. Jess often takes a moment to be grateful for what she has. She feels that every single thing she has is a miracle. Do you feel this way? Take a moment to reflect on what you're grateful for and what possessions you have that feel like little miracles.
7. Gethin is arguably the best gift giver, mainly because he listens and intentionally remembers what people share with him. Have you ever given or received a meaningful gift or gesture? If so, what's the story behind it?
8. It's pretty clear near the end of the novel that Jess and Gethin have feelings for each other. What's holding them back from taking the next step? Were you surprised by any of their decisions?
9. Why do you think Abby has a change of heart and reaches out to Jess at the end of the novel? In what ways have you changed opinions about people in your life?
10. If you were to cast the film adaptation of *The Beginning of Everything*, who would you cast as Jess and as Gethin?