



QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. With this book, Lisa-Jo Baker shares her journey of self-discovery and spiritual transformation. Take a moment to talk, as a group, about whether the themes of *It Wasn't Roaring, It Was Weeping* resonate for you, and how.
2. Faith, in all its complexities, takes center stage in Baker's story. How do her beliefs shape and sustain her through life's trials? How, if at all, do your own?
3. In what ways does Baker's coming-of-age experience in South Africa during apartheid shape her understanding of the issues of identity and belonging that come to light in this book?
4. How does the author navigate the complexities of race both in the South Africa of her youth and in the US of the present day? What lessons can be learned from her experiences? You may wish to talk about Baker's takeaways and if, or how, they ring true to you.
5. What makes you roar? What makes you weep? You may choose to put your answers on paper and share them anonymously if doing so allows for greater comfort or ease of communication.
6. Baker writes about the callouses she has from a difficult childhood. What beliefs and rituals did she pick up as a child in order to survive? What about *you*: how did you overcome your early wounds? What does this memoir suggest you do to make peace with the past and be your best self in the present.
7. Consider the author's message that it is never too late to be free. Do you agree with her? Is it ever too *early* to be free? Talk about the author's timeline for self-awareness—and your own.
8. Did reading this book make you feel close to the author—was her voice that of a best friend? Or did Baker function more as a spiritual guide? Talk about Baker's storytelling techniques and your reading experience. How, if at all, did this book “speak” to you? Did it make you laugh? Cry? Feel seen?
9. Why do you think the act of sharing our stories is healing in and of itself?
10. If there's one question you could ask Baker—about her current life, her writing process, what she hopes readers will take away from this book—what would it be?