## **BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS**

- 1. Few people knew about the impending divorce between Cecily and Tom. What do you think about Cecily's motives for keeping it a secret?
- 2. Do you think Cecily's anger toward Tom even after his death is a way for her to avoid dealing with her grief and feelings of guilt, or is what he did so awful?
- 3. What would Cecily have to gain or lose by forgiving Tom?
- 4. Do you think Cecily is right to eventually tell Cassie and Henry about the difficulties in her marriage?
- 5. Cecily was supposed to be in the building at the time of the explosion but wasn't.
  What role do you think fate played in that situation? How might Cecily and other characters have acted at various times if their beliefs about fate or coincidence were different?
- 6. Cecily feels too guilty about hiding the trouble in her marriage to see that she's been a hero to many after the tragedy, while Kaitlyn believes herself to be a "bad mother," even though she's a good nanny. Why do you think some people have trouble seeing the good parts of themselves and focus only on their faults?
- 7. What do you think of Kate/Kaitlyn's choice to run away from her family?

- 8. How much regret do you think Kaitlyn has about her actions in life? Do you believe she does love her children? How differently do you think you'd feel about it if the character were a man?
- 9. Kaitlyn risked exposure by returning to Chicago to save her family from Franny, but then she chose to leave again. Why? Do you think she made the right choice the second time?
- 10. Why do you think that Franny acts the way she does? What does that reveal about her? What is she hoping to accomplish?
- 11. Why are people so suspicious of Franny and her motives? What might she have done differently to alleviate those fears?
- 12. Why do you think Kaitlyn refuses to acknowledge Franny? How much of a role does that play in Franny's actions, and in Kaitlyn's own?
- 13. Has there ever been a time in your life when you were tempted to run away from everything?