



# *Book Club Discussion Guide*

## BRUNCH AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS

1. Nora, Christina, Leanne are three very different people – which character do you relate to most? Does it surprise you that they all had the same best friend? Does this dynamic remind you of any friendships in your life?
2. Each of the main characters in *Brunch and Other Obligations* face an “obligation” or expectation that society puts on women. Nora is expected to be social and friendly even though she prefers to be alone; Christina is expected to balance career and caretaking; Leanne is expected to have a “perfect” marriage and keep smiling even when she’s sad. Do these pressures sound familiar to you? How do you address these expectations in your life?
3. Molly, Leanne, Christina and Nora met as young girls when the rules for friendship were the same as sisters: you don’t have to like each other, but you do have to love each other. Do you have friendships that started out as young girls or earlier in your life? How do these friendships differ from the friendships that formed in adulthood?
4. Maeve has been in Christina’s daily life for years, but Christina has no idea that Maeve has such an inspiring story of survival and tenacity. Are there people you see all the time – a neighbor, a coworker, another person in your book club – whose story you don’t know?
5. Molly leaves a note for Leanne that says “Allons-y, Cheri,” which beckons Leanne to find adventure in her life through art and travel. Is there somewhere you’re longing to go? Or is there something new you’re longing to try? What’s holding you back?
6. What do you think happens to their friendship next?