*Second Guessing*: Book Club Questions & Discussion Guide

1) The book opens with an article written by a tabloid journalist exposing the relationship between Jill and Ben. Do you feel that a loss of privacy is the price one pays for celebrity? Do you watch TMZ or enjoy reading about celebs? Can a reporter or the paparazzi go too far in their quest for a story or photograph?

2) There are a number of obstacles that stand in the way of Jill and Ben building a life together, including her trust issues, his secret past and their respective roles in the upcoming tribute concert for her late husband. Do you think that any or all of these are resolvable? What’s the biggest challenge you faced in a current or past relationship?

3) There is 14-year age difference between Jill and Ben. Men dating younger women is generally accepted and today, it’s increasingly common for women to date younger men. According to WebMD, almost one-third of women between ages 40 and 69 are dating younger men (defined as 10 or more years younger). What is it about younger men that women find so appealing? Is there a downside?

4) Jill’s daughter Carly had been a huge Five2ndRulez fan and was especially wild about Ben. Crushes on pop stars such as Elvis, David Cassidy, Donny Osmond, Leif Garrett, Justin Timberlake and Harry Styles are quite common. Why do you suppose that so many of us are fascinated by performers? What pop singers did you crush on in your younger days?

5) Marnie is one of Jill’s closest friends and her sister-in-law. She is suffering from depression following a number of ill-fated attempts to conceive. Jill stages an intervention despite her brother Ted’s assurance that all is fine. Was Jill within her rights to interfere? Have your instincts ever driven you to confront a loved one about his or her behavior? What was the result?

6) Jill’s relationship with her daughter is clearly important to her and she loves Carly very much. But despite this close bond, Jill went ahead and started dating Ben, a young man that Carly had once been quite infatuated with. Was this out of character for Jill? Should she have avoided Ben in order to protect her daughter’s feelings?

7) Ben had not been honest with Jill in not disclosing the fact that a fan had attempted suicide in his hotel room a year earlier. Why do you think he kept this a secret from Jill? How do you imagine she would have reacted if he had told her himself, instead of her finding it out on live TV? Have you ever kept something from someone you loved?

8) The main theme of the book is second chances- Jill’s search for a lasting romance, Ben’s desire to reinvent himself as a solo performer, and even Alex’s shot at a comeback. Are some chances not worth taking? How do you handle change and the unknown?

9) Did you have a favorite character? A least favorite one?

10) Is the ending of the book satisfying? If so, why? If not, why not...and how would you change it?

11) If you could ask the author a question, what would you ask?

12) Would you recommend *Second Guessing* to others? Why or why not?