

BOOK CLUB KIT

LUMP

*a memoir
in ineloquent
reflections*



LITTLE
BROWN

*"I'll never forget
this book, or the way
it made me feel."
—Brené Brown*

ALLISON SWEET GRANT

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1 *Lump* chronicles Allison's experience with breast cancer in a variety of formats: poetry, plays, prose, and more. Why do you think she chooses to tell her story this way? Was there a format that resonated most with you?

2 Allison received her diagnosis and began treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic, a time characterized by quarantine, social distancing, and a collective conversation about what it means to be healthy or sick. How do you think the pandemic might have impacted how she received healthcare and, more broadly, her experience of cancer?

3 Throughout her memoir, Allison illuminates the stark contrast between the extremely personal fight for her life, and the highly impersonal US healthcare system (some examples include her interaction with the reconstructive surgeon in "Hot-Girl Summer," her satirical medical and insurance forms, and the almost farcical aspects of "The Good Patient: A Play"). What flaws or strengths do Allison's words reveal about US healthcare? What are some of the pressures that women in particular experience under this system?

4 Allison often reflects on the power of autonomy and individual choice. As she poignantly puts it: "When there are no good choices/let me be greedy. When there are no good choices/let me choose me." Why does having the ability to make your own choices matter, even in circumstances where choices are limited?

5 If you are reading this book as someone whose life has been touched by cancer in some way, either in your direct experience or through that of a friend or loved one, which elements of Allison's narrative stood out to you?