

# ASTORIA LITTLE LOVE MIND THE SOLA SERIES

A NOVEL BY RUTH E. MEYER



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1. Jackson breaks his leg in the very first scene of the book. How does this affect him in the immediate future? How does it affect his long-term plans? How does it affect Grace? Reread the final sentence of Chapter 1, where Grace admits she never thought she'd be grateful for a broken femur. What changed her perspective?
2. Discuss Leonard's death in Chapter 12 and the events that follow. Have you ever known anyone who died without believing in Jesus? Do you agree with the way Pastor Chris handled the message at the funeral? Was it appropriate for him to preach at an unbeliever's funeral or not? What do you think about the Youngs' family discussion after the funeral? Why is it so difficult to witness to family members who aren't Christian?
3. The theme of mental illness is explored throughout the book. In Chapter 8, Sam first reveals to Jackson that her brother has schizophrenia, and in Chapter 15, she elaborates on how that illness affected him and the entire family. Do you know anyone with a mental illness? Do you agree that it's a taboo topic in the church or that people have misconceptions about those who have a mental illness? How can the Church reach out to families affected in this way?
4. Sam witnesses a bitter fight between her parents in Chapter 17. Although we don't see any of their interactions leading up to this, it's obvious they have been fighting for a long time now. Do either of them "fight fair"? What traps do you see them falling into when making accusations and pointing fingers? Do you agree with their decision to separate? Could it have been avoided?
5. Through the course of the story, Jackson, Freddie, and Grace all face changes and new beginnings in their lives. With whom do you most identify? Discuss the differences in their personalities and the difficulties they face. Which of them seems to struggle the most with these challenges? Why?
6. What do you think about Jackson and Sam's conversation in Chapter 25 as they both grapple with issues regarding faith and forgiveness?

7. Technology and social media is another issue characters in this book deal with. Do you agree with Grace and David's decision to allow Katie to have her own phone? In your opinion, what is an acceptable age to allow this? What do you think about the use of social media? How do both Katie and Miranda misuse their social media accounts? What can people do to keep themselves and their kids safe online?
8. Miranda ends up staying with Faith and Spencer for awhile. Talk about Faith and Spencer's argument in Chapter 36. Are Faith's concerns justified? Does she go too far?
9. How does Miranda's upbringing affect her present life decisions? Without meeting her in the manuscript, what is your opinion of Miranda's mother? After Miranda shares her news and her backstory with Jackson in Chapter 37, how does Jackson handle the discussion? Is it fair of him to blame himself later for her decision?
10. Discuss the transformation of Jackson's attitude toward Bob. Who helped Jackson the most in the process?
11. Jackson has grown up a lot through the course of this book and learns how to "stand alone." Talk about the conversation in Chapter 40 between the other guys in his fraternity. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt like the only one taking a stand for the truth? Is it easier to speak up, as Jackson did, or to remain silent, as Brandon did?
12. Grace has entered a new phase of life herself, with all her kids in school for the first time in years. She begins college without a specific goal in mind but by the end has declared a major she never would have considered before. While advance planning is often wise, sometimes we find other interests or talents in a serendipitous way, as Grace did. Have you ever experienced something similar, where God leads you down a new path in life unexpectedly?