

After **THE SIRENS** BOOK CLUB GUIDE



Thank you for reading *Becoming Gaby*.

Stories don't truly end on the last page — they continue in conversation.

If *After the Sirens* stirred something in you, unsettled you, or made you see a character differently than you expected, these questions are an invitation to explore that further.

Take your time. Disagree. Dig deeper. Sometimes the most powerful shifts happen when we dare to speak them out loud.

I. Turning points: Have you ever lived through a major shift (sudden or gradual)? What triggered it—and what helped you follow through?

1. Andy moves to town to "pay his debt."
Can redemption be earned through action, or must a person face consequences to truly earn forgiveness?
2. Andy hides the truth about Katia's death for much of the novel.
Do you agree with his choice to keep this from Marlene and Ben? Was there ever a "right" time to confess?
3. Does Andy ultimately find redemption?
If so, what does it cost him—and is the cost enough, too much, or something else entirely?
4. Do you think it was Andy's responsibility to take care of Katia's son after her death?

II. Family, Found Family & Intergenerational Ties

5. Ben sits at the heart of the story.
What do you think is going on in his little world? Do you think he's good living with Marlene?
Is it the right place for him?
6. The novel explores found family as much as blood ties.
Is "family" defined more by shared history or by the effort people make to show up?
7. The chief and his wife had no idea they had a grandson.
How do you imagine their integration into Ben's life? What emotional complications do you foresee?
8. Marlene fears losing Ben when his grandparents enter the picture.
Are her fears justified? How do her past experiences—from hardship to trauma—shape that protective instinct?
9. Do you think Chief Archer gave his son too many chances?
Should he have fired Bradley sooner, or is a parent's hope for their child a different kind of loyalty?

III. Character Arcs & Emotional Turning Points

10. Marlene begins the story as a hard, guarded woman.
What moment (or moments) felt like a true turning point in her arc? Did your opinion of her shift by the end?
11. Olivia brings warmth, steadiness, and clarity into Andy's life.
What role does she play in his transformation? How does she help him see himself differently?