

## **A Reader's Guide for *What Lies We Keep***

1. *What Lies We Keep* asks a provocative question “What happens when we embrace the life we think we should have, rather than the life we have?” How did you interpret that question when reading this book?
2. Charlotte is indecisive. In many ways this is due to her lack of confidence in her personal strength and an inability to hold onto the direction she wants for her life. Has there been a time in your life when you've struggled with self-confidence, and then a major incident or life change caused you to tap your inner strength and turn a corner?
3. Have you known people like Ted whose insecurity leads them to rely on outward markers of success - a title, a big house, a fancy car - to validate themselves? How did their story develop?
4. What does our culture teach us about success? What does it encourage us to prioritize in our life to feel we've accomplished success?
5. Have you had moments in your life in which it felt that you, like Charlotte, had to choose how to forgive another person and if that person had redeemed themselves enough to stay in your life?
6. Was there a time in your life in which you've made a decision or mistake that damaged your relationship with people you love? Did you, like Ted, hope redemption was possible?
7. How did you feel about Charlotte's decision at the end of the book?