

Book Club Questions

- 1. As the miracles in Atlanta spread, news and social media coverage grows. At what point do you think these miracles would have gone "viral" and garnered attention?
- 2. Jaime encounters a number of people who claim (or previously claimed) to have experienced miracles—Ruth Porter, Sheryl Streit, and Max O'Malley. Ruth and Sheryl are very hesitant to discuss the experience. Why? If a miracle happened to you, would it be easy to tell others?
- 3. Two of the early miracles Jairo performs are caught on video. If you them, would you believe them or think they were faked? What role would media play?
- 4. If you were Evangeline, what would you feel? Why is the gift of sight such a powerful symbol in this context?
- 5. How did you interpret Jaime's first meeting with Campinola? Did it resonate with your experience?
- 6. Jaime and her friends discuss their own religious backgrounds and beliefs. What are yours? How did they influence your reading of these events?
- 7. Who did you think Jairo was when he was first introduced? How did your opinion of him change as you read further?
- 8. Throughout the text, most of the more sympathetic and open-minded characters are the most outcast and in need of help. Does that ring true for you? How would the story have been different if Jairo's and Campinola's roles were reversed?
- 9. If you met Jairo and had experiences similar to those in the house, would you have followed him? Why or why not?

- 10. What did you feel when Jairo went to the Campinola event, the police station, and the hospital respectively? Why?
- 11. What do various characters say about the theology of miracles—why they happen at all and why they are offered to some but not others?
- 12. How would your community respond if the events in this story happened?
- 13. Jaime lost her father and brother in the story. How did this impact her and her ability to believe? How has losing a loved one impacted your own beliefs?
- 14. Jaime has various relationships in the story—Alisha, Kris, Alan, Bea, Jairo, Charlie, her mother, and others. Which one resonated the most with you? Why?
- 15. What role are Jaime's dreams playing in the story? What do they mean?
- 16. How have Jaime's beliefs evolved by the time she spends the final night in the house with Jairo's group.
- 17. What did you think of the ending? Was it what you expected? What does it mean?
- 18. One of the central tensions posed by the book is that if miracles do happen, they certainly don't happen to everyone. Many people suffer with no special divine intervention. How do you make sense of this?
- 19. There are a number of instances of symbols, historical references, passages of scripture, and allusions in the text. "Beatrice" for example is Dante's guide through purgatory and heaven in *The Divine Comedy* and "Halasz" is Hungarian for "fisher." Did you notice any of these references? Which stood out.
- 20.Do you believe in miracles? Have you experienced one?



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