



# THE INVITATION

## A Weekend With Emma

by Dawn Kohler

A guide for reading, reflecting, and growing together

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### About the Book

At the center of *The Invitation* is Kate, a journalist who has lost her job and quietly lost connection with herself. When she receives an unexpected invitation from the mysterious Emma Daines, a renowned woman known for her wisdom and work in social change, Kate embarks on a weekend journey that becomes far more than an interview. Through conversations, relationships, loss, and reflection, the novel explores healing, identity, grief, purpose, and the courage it takes to live authentically.

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### Suggested Book Club Questions

1. What was your emotional reaction to the book?
2. Which character did you connect with most and why?
3. What do you think “the invitation” symbolizes in the story?

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### Questions about the Characters

#### About Kate

1. Kate appears successful on the outside but restless internally. Why do you think she feels so unsettled?
2. Do you think losing her job was ultimately a crisis or a catalyst?
3. Kate struggles between security and freedom in her relationship with David. Did you empathize with her conflict?
4. How does Kate’s physical difference shape the way she experiences the world and herself?
5. At what point did you begin to see Kate changing

## **About Emma**

9. Emma is both wise and deeply human. What qualities make her compelling?
10. Why do you think Emma invited Kate specifically?
11. Emma speaks often about change, survival, and the soul. Which of her insights impacted you most?
12. How did Emma's personal losses shape the way she lives?
13. Do you think Emma was trying to teach Kate something directly, or simply create space for Kate to discover herself?

## **About Camille and Compassion**

14. Camille's work rescuing children from trafficking introduces a larger social dimension to the story. Why do you think this storyline was important?
  15. What does Camille represent in the novel?
  16. The book suggests that pain can either harden us or deepen our compassion. Do you agree?
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## **Themes of Healing and Purpose**

17. Emma writes: "Change happens to everyone. Wisdom occurs when you use the change wisely." What do you think this means?
  18. The novel frequently explores the tension between achievement and meaning. How does that theme show up in modern life?
  19. Have you ever experienced a season where life forced you to reevaluate who you were?
  20. What do you think the book is ultimately saying about purpose?
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## **Spiritual and Philosophical Themes**

21. The novel explores the idea that suffering can awaken us. Did that resonate with you?
22. What role does intuition or inner knowing play in the story?
23. Emma's memoir discusses how early wounds shape identity. How do the characters either remain trapped in old stories or begin to move beyond them?
24. Do you see the novel as spiritual, psychological, philosophical, or all three?

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## Ending Reflections

25. What do you think Kate leaves with at the end of the story?
  26. Did the novel change how you think about your own life in any way?
  27. What conversation from the book stayed with you after finishing it?
  28. If you could ask Emma Daines one question, what would it be?
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## Optional Book Club Activities

### • Personal Reflection

- What invitation might life currently be offering you?
- What change are you resisting?
- What part of yourself wants more expression?

### • Journaling Prompt

- “What would it look like to live more honestly with myself?”

### • Group Exercise

Have each member share:

- One moment in life that unexpectedly changed them.
  - One lesson they learned from it.
  - One invitation waiting for them to answer.
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## Suggested Pairings for a Book Club Gathering

Inspired by Emma’s world:

- Herbal tea or mint tea
  - Rustic Italian food or wood-fired pizza
  - Sunflowers or wildflowers on the table
  - Soft candlelight and cozy seating
  - Journals for reflection
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## Write a Review

If you have a moment, please write a review on Amazon. It really helps spread the healing thoughts. And feel free to reach out to me, Dawn Kohler, at [www.DawnKohler.com](http://www.DawnKohler.com).