

Book Club Questions

These questions are grouped under headings, so you can quickly find the ones that are right for your book club. Wish I could listen in!

- Colleen

Character Connections

Which character did you most identify with?

Which character did you like best?

Points of View

Did you like having points of view from three characters, or would you prefer to have only one protagonist in a book?

Time Period

The book is set in 2019. What clues in the book suggest the recent past, but not the present? Do you think the book will date well, or not?

Setting

How does location influence the story? Could the same story have taken place in a wealthy suburb? In a rural town?

Growth and Change

How do each of the three characters mature over the course of the book? What do they know about themselves at the end that they were unaware of in the beginning?

The Supernatural

More than most books in the Christian fiction genre, this book makes supernatural healing central. How do you respond to this? Have you observed or experienced healing events like the ones in this book?

Leadership Crisis

When did you first realize Alex was not a good pastor?

How do you think the leadership handled the crisis with Alex?

Have you seen an organization damaged by the brokenness of the person in charge? What was that like for you?

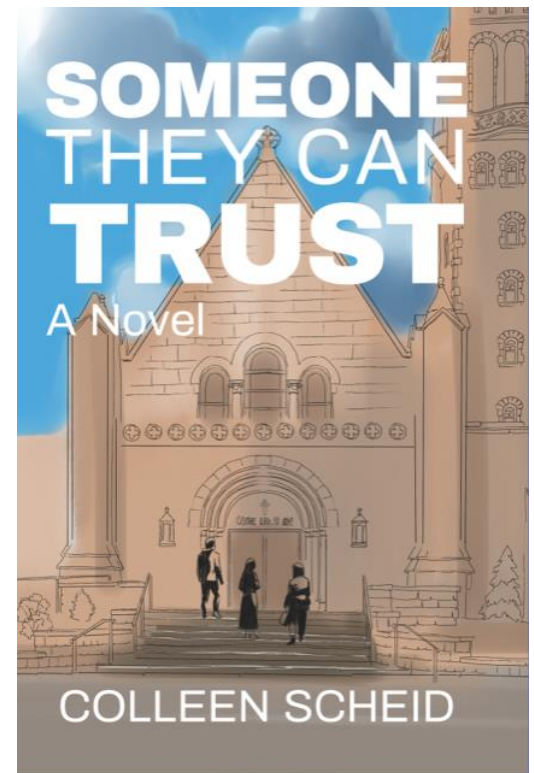
One agent didn't want to represent this book because they didn't want to see another example of a bad pastor after so many pastors have been publicly criticized. They feared the book would be harmful to the church. Do you think it is helpful or harmful for Christians to be open about abuse in churches?

Race

"Someone They Can Trust" is set in a diverse church. What's the racial makeup of churches you've been to? Though the setting is diverse, most of the main characters are white. Why do you think the author may have avoided including a black protagonist? What do you think is necessary to guard unity in a church with people from different cultures?

Abuse

Do you think a person like Alex could deceive you into trusting them, making you vulnerable to being hurt by them? Why or why not?



After Maya was assaulted by Alex, several people felt guilty for not doing more to prevent it. What could they have done?

Alzheimer's

How did Laura's behavior change over the course of the book?

How was Maya impacted as the primary caregiver?

How has Alzheimer's or other dementias impacted your family?

The Church as a Community

Would you like to be a member of Pleasant Hill Community Church? What were its strengths and weaknesses?