

SAM GARONZIK

*"Fleabag meets Gone Girl.  
A darkly funny,  
sometimes terrifying noir."*  
—JENNIFER BELLE,  
bestselling author

A

ROUGH

a novel

WAY

TO GO

BOOK CLUB KIT

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

---

- The device of the “unreliable narrator” is used frequently in this genre. What other books are similar to *A Rough Way to Go* in this aspect, and how does Pete compare to the protagonists of those stories?
- Loneliness and a lack of intimacy in the western world are receiving more attention lately, particularly among younger people and men. Consider the ways in which male friendship is portrayed in the book, especially between Pete and Drew, Pete and Frank, and Pete and Craw. Did you find these depictions accurate or misguided? Are there any parts of the story that add to the conversation on male isolation and friendship?
- How does Pete feel about the topic of work? Does he seem to dislike finance or capitalism? Compare GDR’s business practices with other characters’ views on work—and the value of work—in the story: Drew’s, Walker’s, Noel’s, Frank’s, Lauren’s, and Robert Townsend’s.
- Discuss Pete’s relationships with women in the novel, paying particular attention “the moms”—Gandle, Nia, and Brooke. Did you find any of Pete’s perceptions or opinions regarding these characters problematic?
- Discuss the arc of Drew and Pete’s relationship in the story. Do you think Drew is mean-spirited or a voice of reason? Is he manipulating Pete? Or did you trust him?
- At the end of chapter 34, Pete wonders what it is he’s looking for in Gandle. He claims he doesn’t think it’s sexual. What do you think Gandle’s overall opinion of Pete is?
- Community is a crucial theme in the novel. With this in mind, consider the locations of the library, the Bull, and the box. Discuss Pete’s interactions with the people he meets there. How are they important? Contrast these with Pete’s experience at the country club and the conversations he has with the people who attended Townsend’s funeral.
- Discuss the ways in which issues of mental health are portrayed in the book.
- In Frank and Pete’s final scene together down at the beach, Frank lists several clues that Pete seems to have missed. Can you think of additional clues throughout the book that Frank doesn’t mention? What about instances where Pete simply misinterprets another character’s behavior or a situation?
- At the end of the book, Pete decides to stay with Lauren. Were you surprised by this? What do you think motivates Pete to make this decision? What comes next for Lauren and Pete?

# RECIPE

## THE BLOODY TOWNSEND



Enjoy beachside after a morning's surf. Or not.

Recipe courtesy of TK



### Ingredients:

- Tito's Vodka (1.5 oz)
- Zing Zang Bloody Mary Mix (Non-negotiable)
- Lemon
- Lime
- Celery
- Olives
- Old Bay Seasoning

### Directions:

Wet the rim of a pint glass with lime. Dip it in old bay to coat the rim. Mix vodka, Zing Zang, and ice in a shaker. Pour into pint glass, add garnish. Enjoy!



# MORE RESOURCES FOR YOUR BOOKCLUB

## WHAT TO WATCH NEXT

THE VANISHING  
CHINATOWN  
THE LAST SEDUCTION  
BLOOD SIMPLE  
HEADHUNTERS  
FORCE MAJEURE  
SHALLOW GRAVE  
LAYER CAKE  
WITNESS  
COPLAND



## THE OFFICIAL ROUGH WAY TO GO PLAYLIST

TO BE YOUNG - RYAN ADAMS  
SPLENDID ISOLATION - PETE YORN COVER  
YOU'RE THE REASON OUR KIDS ARE UGLY - LORETTA LYNN/CONWAY TWITTY  
MORE HUMAN THAN HUMAN - WHITE ZOMBIE  
IN SPITE OF OURSELVES - JOHN PRINE  
I DON'T WANT TO GROW UP - TOM WAITS  
I FEEL LIKE HANK WILLIAMS TONIGHT - JERRY JEFF WALKER  
WOLF LIKE ME - TV ON THE RADIO  
STOLEN CAR - BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN  
TUESDAY'S GONE - METALLICA COVER  
FEELING GOOD AGAIN - ROBERT EARL KEEN  
CANNONBALL - THE BREEDERS  
WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT - THE BLACK KEYS  
SMOKE - LUCERO

**START LISTENING NOW  
ON SPOTIFY**

