***Worthy***

**Book Club Questions**

1. After the tragedy on the night of Virginia’s first kiss with Aaron, she realizes that life can change in an instant. This theme is brought back later on in the book when she realizes who Jody really is. In what ways were these two events similar and different?
2. When Virginia comes to Lloyd’s defense in the beginning of the book, Fern tells her, “Right. The battle cry of the lonely woman. ‘My love will fix him!’” Why does Virginia hold on so tightly to this hope?
3. Jody watches as a stranger dumps his dog in the snow in the middle of the wilderness. He notices that the dog still wags his tail at the person who has just abandoned him. In the face of an animal’s unconditional love, what do you think drives some people to treat them so poorly?
4. The theme of being “worthy” runs throughout the book. For Jody it is simple: the dog deserves more. Is this true for other characters in the novel? Why or why not?
5. Jody does not process things in the same way most people do. How does his childhood trauma shape the man he grows up to be?
6. When Virginia comes to retrieve her dog from Jody’s house, Worthy stays behind, rather than returning home with her. Why do you think Worthy chose to stay with Jody?
7. The bridge symbolizes turning points in both of the main characters’ lives. In what ways did the bridge become a place of loss and redemption?
8. Toward the end of the book, Jody and Virginia are trapped in the café as the weather begins to worsen. How is the impending storm both real and a metaphor for the characters’ internal conflict?
9. Jody moves into action to protect both Virginia and Worthy when Lloyd reappears with malicious intentions. How does this reaction show a shift in Jody’s ability to connect with those he has come to love?