

# *Just call me López*

## **DISCUSSION GUIDE**

### **PREFACE**

1. The author calls the light refracting through the glass a “miracle.” Others would call it just “science.” What makes it a miracle? What makes it science? Why do you think scientists sometimes find it hard to see miracles?
2. The author describes her own journey of distaste/dislike for St. Ignatius of Loyola and how her sentiment changed over the course of writing this book. What changed her mind? Has that ever happened to you? What does that teach us about humanity and God’s creation?

### **A STORY BEGINS**

1. Who says the following? “When life knocks you sideways sometimes it’s the beginning of something new, something that takes you completely by surprise.” Have you ever experienced being knocked “sideways” by life? Why were these words so meaningful to Rachel?
2. “You will do more than survive. Our hurts can be the places where we start to grow.” Lopez says these words to Rachel. Do you think these words are wise or just a cliché? Why or why not?

### **CHAPTER 1: MILK, FIRE, AND ROASTED CHESTNUTS**

1. How does Rachel feel about the first visit before and as Lopez arrives? What is the cause for her anxiety?
2. Lopez tells Rachel “If I’ve learned little else about this life of the soul, I do know that appreciating the present moment – whether it’s mundane or mysterious – is always the best way to go.” Do you agree or disagree?

3. Why did Lopez consider his childhood to be lucky?
4. Lopez describes watching Maria's husband at work as a blacksmith, stating "I wanted to be that passionate about something." What does it mean to be passionate about something? What are the necessary attributes of passion? Is there anything, based on these attributes, about which you are passionate?

## **CHAPTER 2: ILLUSION, DISILLUSION**

1. How did Lopez' entrance startle Rachel?
2. Why was Rachel skeptical about Lopez' father's choice of profession for Lopez? What course did his life actually take? Why is the Chapter titled in this way? What lessons did Lopez learn during this period?
3. What parallels can you draw to this point between the early 16<sup>th</sup> Century and modern times? What do you think of Lopez so far?

## **CHAPTER 3: SHATTERED**

1. This chapter describes a turning point in Lopez' life. What happens to change his perspective?
2. Lopez believes his broken leg represents personal failure. Why does he feel like this?
3. Rachel suggests it might actually represent transformation. What does she mean by this? What might she be suggesting about his life? What do you think Rachel does for a living?
4. What realization does Lopez begin to experience in his telling of this episode of his life?