

This reading guide for **Good Morning, Love** is a resource for your book club and includes questions around themes, discussion points, and a link to an interview with author *Ashley M. Coleman.* Happy reading!

Introduction

For fans of *My (Not So) Perfect Life* and Jasmine Guillory's *While We Were Dating*, a disarmingly fun debut novel follows Carlisa Henton as her life comes undone after a chance meeting with a rising pop star.

Carlisa "Carli" Henton is a musician and songwriter hoping to follow in her father's musical footsteps. But, biding her time until she makes it big in the music industry, she works as a junior account manager at a bigname media company to cover her New York

City rent. Carli meticulously balances her work with her musical endeavors as a songwriter—until a chance meeting with rising star Tau Anderson sends her calculated world into a frenzy. Their worlds collide and quickly blur the strict lines Carli has drawn between her business and her personal life, throwing Carli's reputation—and her burgeoning songwriting career—into question.

A smart, timely, energizing romance, *Good Morning, Love* shows us what the glamorous New York's music scene is really like and takes us into the lives of a rising but somewhat troubled R&B star and a promising protégé who knows her job better than she knows herself.

With fresh and honest prose, *Good Morning, Love* examines the uncertainty of being a new professional looking to chase a dream while also trying to survive in a world that's not always kind to ambitious women.

Topics & Questions for Discussion

1. In the opening of the book, we feel the bad boy energy from Tau. Women are in a literal frenzy just watching him on stage. When he first approaches Carli, she is

immediately turned off by his "confidence." When it did it become clear that Tau was truly into Carli?

- 2. We learn early in the book that Carli's relationship with her father is complex. How do you think this affected how she related to Tau? "Sorry I couldn't make it last month.' A text from my dad. They were so random and sporadic. Often apologies" (21).
- 3. Carli creates strict rules separating her business and creative life. Do you feel like that was necessary? Why did Carli decide against being more open about her longer term aspirations?
- 4. Carli and Talia's friendship plays a key role in the story. Why do you think Talia gives Carli space knowing she may have been hiding something from her?
- 5. Dawn is not only Carli's boss, but also a mentor. Do you feel like Dawn's role in Carli's life was ever overbearing?
- 6. Carli decides to work with Meck again even with their history. Why do you think she was willing to sacrifice her personal safety for an opportunity?
- 7. There is a huge discovery that Carli makes about her parent's relationship when visiting. How do you feel like this altered her view of them? What else changed for her after that visit?
- 8. Carli is faced with a big decision when it comes to her personal life and her career. What would you have done?
- 9. Dylan and Tau represent two totally different types of men even though they are in the same profession. Do you feel like Carli went with the right guy? Who would you have chosen?
- 10. There's a note that Carli received from Dawn that may have helped her decide to take a major leap. What do you think that note meant?

Book Club Enhancements

1. Do you remember your first concert? Have the group share about their very first concert experience. What artist did you see? What do you remember most about the experience?

- 2. Good Morning, Love definitely has a 90s love story kind of vibe. "Love Jones" is mentioned in the book and comparisons to "Brown Sugar" have been made in the press. Pick one of these films to watch and find your own comparisons.
- 3. Carli writes a journal entry that she felt was essentially a letter to God on her next steps. Have your group, write a journal entry about where they hope to see their lives in the next year.
- 4. When reading Good Morning, Love, did you wonder if there was a playlist? Well, you're in luck. Check out the Good Morning, Love Playlist on Tidal or Spotify. This is the exact playlist Ashley listened to when writing the book. <u>Spotify</u> <u>Tidal</u>

Want to hear more insight on the book? You can listen to Ashley's interview with <u>Feminist Book Club</u>.