Before I Go
Discussion Questions

Warning: Some questions contain spoilers. Read the novel before looking at the questions. You've been warned!

Thank you for choosing to read *Before I Go*. I hope you enjoyed it, and I also hope these questions will help you on your way to an enthusiastic discussion of the novel. This is not an exhaustive list of questions, but simply a starting place.

If you'd like to have me join in your discussion, get it touch! I'd love to share my thoughts with you, and I'd love to hear yours. If you're with the Philadelphia/Lancaster area or in Washington county, Maine, I may be able to visit your group in person. If not, I'll send you a Zoom link and we can share with each other that way. (There is no fee for me joining your group. I do this for pure enjoyment.)

General Questions

1. Who was your favorite character and why?
2. Was there a moment that caused you to laugh out loud or to reach for a tissue?
3. Which character did you relate to or empathize with the most? Why?
4. Which character did you dislike or disagree with the most? Why?
5. Are there any characters you wish you could have given advice to? What would you tell them?
6. What was the most memorable scene for you? Why?

Questions Specific to *Before I Go*

1. If you read *Iris and Mo* first, did *Before I Go* change the way you viewed Frank Happy? Were there things about him that suddenly made more sense?

2. In the opening scene, we see Frank's home life was a nightmare. Why do you think his mother stayed with his father so long despite the horrors she and her boys faced?
3. In chapter one, why do you think this was the day Frank chose to stand up to his father?
4. Esther tells Frank on his graduation day that she should have done more for him and for Will. Was she justified in that thought? How did the time period (1960s) affect her choices to protect her family?
5. Frank often keeps his thoughts and emotions to himself. How did his tendency to remain silent affect him and those around him?
6. Claire was willing to play with fire when Ben returned to Eastport. How did she justify this to herself and how do you think this episode affected her relationship with Frank moving forward?
7. How do you feel about the lengths Claire went to have a child?
8. How do regret and missed opportunities shape Frank's life? Are there decisions you wish he had made differently?
9. Several relationships help shape Frank over the years. Which relationship do you think had the greatest impact on him? Which had the most surprising impact?
10. The characters in *Before I Go* demonstrate different levels and expressions of faith. Which character's spiritual journey resonated most with you, and why?
11. Eastport is more than a backdrop in the series. How does living in a small community affect Frank's choices, relationships, and ability—or inability—to leave the past behind?
12. If you read Iris and Mo prior to *Before I Go*, were there details from the earlier book that took on new significance for you once you knew Frank's history?
13. What does the novel suggest about second chances?
14. How does knowing Frank's backstory affect the way you view his relationship with Iris?

15. Which character would you most like to have a conversation with after finishing the novel? What would you ask?