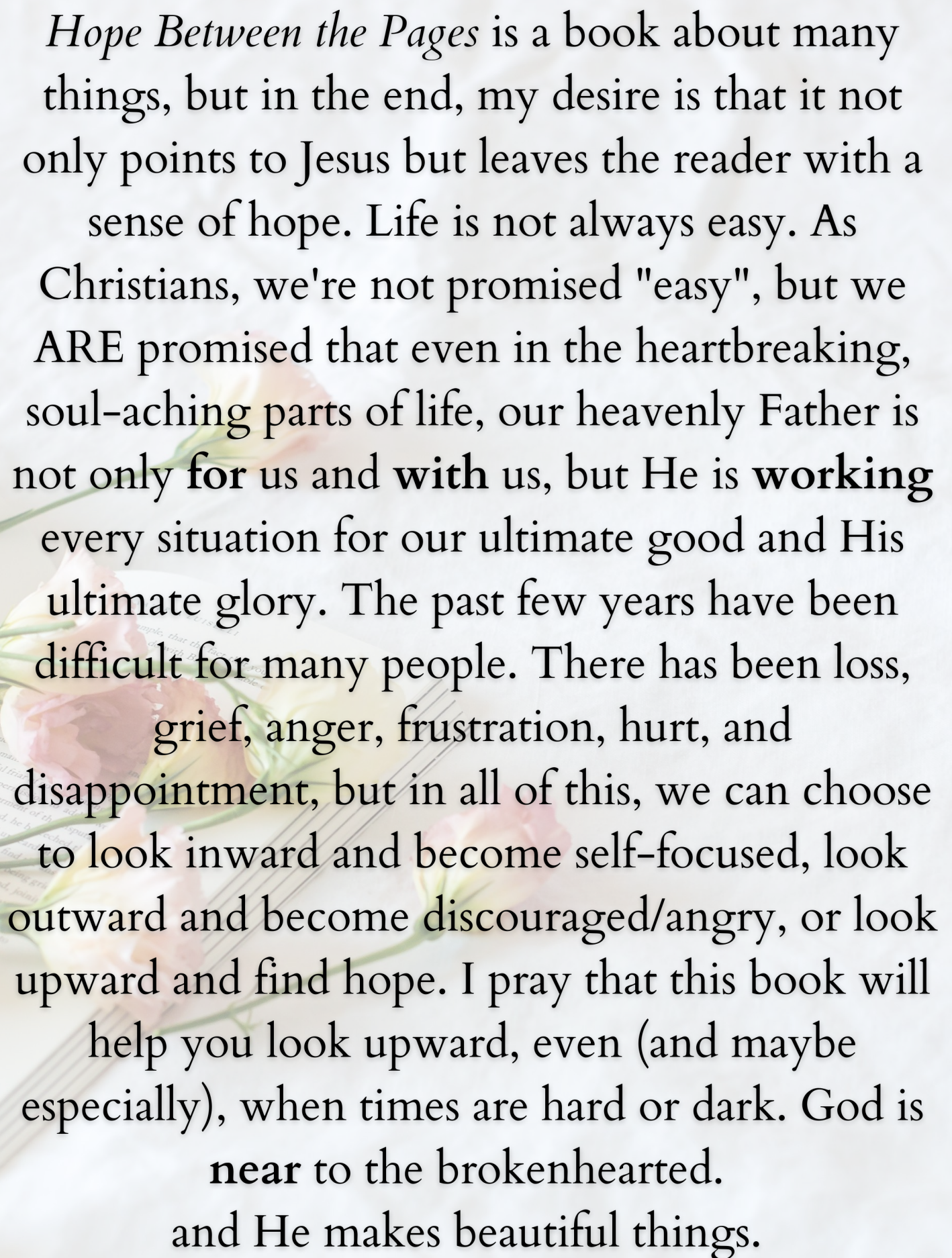


Book Club Packet





Hope Between the Pages is a book about many things, but in the end, my desire is that it not only points to Jesus but leaves the reader with a sense of hope. Life is not always easy. As Christians, we're not promised "easy", but we ARE promised that even in the heartbreaking, soul-aching parts of life, our heavenly Father is not only **for** us and **with** us, but He is **working** every situation for our ultimate good and His ultimate glory. The past few years have been difficult for many people. There has been loss, grief, anger, frustration, hurt, and disappointment, but in all of this, we can choose to look inward and become self-focused, look outward and become discouraged/angry, or look upward and find hope. I pray that this book will help you look upward, even (and maybe especially), when times are hard or dark. God is **near** to the brokenhearted. and He makes beautiful things.

A fellow hope bringer,

Pepper Basham



Settings



The Vanderbilt estate in the Blue
Ridge Mountains of Western NC





Settings



A bookshop in a village near
Asheville, NC



Settings



Lake District, UK



Discussion Questions

Childhood reading strongly influences the characters in this story. What are some of your favorite books you read as a child?

There are two romances in this book. Did you have a favorite of the two? Why was that one your favorite?

How are Oliver and Clara similar in their relationships with Sadie and Max?

What is it about Oliver that draws Sadie out of, not only her role, but also her introversion?

Despite some sad scenes in this story (one, in particular), what was the “hope” found within these pages?

Many times, people can feel “unseen” in our world (maybe we’ve even been one of those people). What are some things you’ve done to truly “see” others around you? How has being truly “seen” touched your heart?

Fear has a way of causing us to move inward toward ourselves instead of reaching outward to others. What were things that helped you move away from fear and toward courage?

What do you think keeps us from stepping out into our own stories?

This book deals with loss in several different ways. How does the truth of God’s Word help us “grieve with hope” and then step back into our stories? How can God use grief to teach us more about Him?

Do you think Sadie has a HEA (happily-ever-after)? Why or why not?



If the book fits...

Which of these classic books do you think would be on each of the characters' personal bookshelves? There can be more than one answer for each :)

Sadie

The Count of Monte Cristo

Oliver

Grimm's Book of Fairytale

Clara

A Christmas Carol

Max

Poems by William Blake

Robbie

Miss Marple Mysteries

Uncle Julien

The Secret Garden

Eleanor
Blackwell

Sherlock Holmes
Jane Austen's classics

Oliver's Last Letter

My darling Sadie,

If you are reading this letter, then I have quit my earthly home for a heavenly one, though, to be honest, my time with you was as much a taste of heaven as I've ever known. I don't regret serving my country in this way, my love. Know that I would do it again even had I been aware of the outcome. I fought to protect our future, now your future. But my greatest fulfillment in life has been being loved by you, dreaming with you. We did not have years of memories, nor decades to learn every intricate facet of each other's personalities, and many might say that love cannot bloom within the confines of our limited time and correspondence, but we would prove them wrong. Something within me came alive when I met you, and there was no going back to what I was before.

The difference between a book and a living, breathing romance, is that books come to an end, but don't suppose that just because I am not able to hold you in my arms or unpin your beautiful hair, that our love has somehow ended as well. Do you think something like love, which has filled stories for millennia, can be vanquished so easily? Do you believe that this powerful affection, this choice we've made to each other, is as frail as that?

I know you do not.

Your love is not frail. It's strong enough to make miracles happen, my darling. Love will linger beyond this page, and, as oft it does in the best stories, spill around to encompass others. It is how love works. Unselfish and pervasive, shattering the darkness with a soft voice. Your love has done that for me, and in our moment of love on earth, I tasted a hint of what God always meant love to be. As the Scriptures say much better than I, "love never faileth". You see? Even though we cannot be together, our love has not and will not fail, for love always has a purpose and I leave that purpose in your very capable hands.

I cannot know what courage you will need for the days and years ahead, but I pray what courage and hope our days together have forged within you, that you will hold fast to our dreams. I cannot hold your hand or wipe your tears, my beautiful darling, but God is near. He will be your strength and your courage. He will help you to keep dreaming and place feet to those dreams.

You were made to do great things, my brave girl. You were made to touch lives through stories or words or kindness. You are practically overflowing with untapped creativity and strength. That is who you are.

And I have loved you completely.

Until we meet again,

Only yours forever,

Oliver



Thank you!

I hope you enjoyed reading Hope Between the Pages. I'm so grateful to get to write novels set in both historical time periods and contemporary. And, of course, I love sprinkling in romance. I wanted this book to have the feel of a modern-day fairytale, so I hope you've enjoyed the "magic". If you'd like to learn more about me and my books, check out my website at www.pepperdbasham.com