

the GLOSS

TRUE BIZ

S A R A N O V I C

1. Did you enjoy the book? Rate it from 1 - 5.
2. If you're part of the hearing community, how much did you know about the Deaf community and culture prior to reading this novel? What are some key aspects that you learned?
3. Out of the three main storylines—Charlie, Austin and February—which one were you most engaged with? Who do you think had the weakest storyline?
4. Discuss Charlie's relationship with her mother. What, if anything, do they owe each other?
5. How does TRUE BIZ explore the ways the experiences of Deaf children, teens, adults and elderly people differ?
6. February is hearing but is headmistress of a Deaf school. Did you have any concerns about this? Why or why not?
7. What kind of responsibility did February have growing up as the child of Deaf parents? How are her childhood experiences similar to those of children of immigrants?
8. Why does February confide in Wanda over Mel about the closing of River Valley? Do you think this was a betrayal? Why or why not?
9. Slash may not be a great romantic partner for Charlie, but he proves to be a surprisingly great ally. What are some of the ways he shows this? How might you fight for accessibility for Deaf and hard-of-hearing folks in different areas of your life?
10. The story is left open ended in many ways—what do you think happens next for Charlie, Austin and February? Will the school close for good?