

Book Club questions for *A Step Past Darkness* (written by the author)  
**Please note that these questions contain spoilers.**

1. In what ways does the town of Wesley Falls contribute to the story?
2. Who is the villain in this book?
3. Writing, and sometimes reading, books with ensemble casts is sometimes difficult. How well do you think the ensemble cast worked in this book? Which character did you relate to the most?
4. An ensemble cast has an overall group dynamic, but also smaller relationships with the overall group. There are a few of these dynamics: Jia and Padma are best friends, Kelly and James are best friends, Casey and Maddie are popular while the others aren't, and there are four girls and two boys. How did you see these smaller groups contributing to the group dynamic and the story overall?
5. Discuss how the setting (mid-90s) contributed to the atmosphere of the story. In what ways would the story be different if it took place now?
6. Each member of the Capstone Six comes from a different family. In what ways do these different families contribute to each of the characters, their personalities, and their outlook on life?
7. This book is quite explicitly a critique of prosperity gospel—a set of ideas popular in some American megachurches centering on the idea that God rewards people with health and wealth if they are good Christians. In what ways do the story and themes of the story speak to this?
8. How do the characters differ from each other with respect to their views on faith and spirituality?
9. What was the most surprising part of the book for you?
10. We first see these characters when they are about 15 and then again when they are 35. How have they grown as people? Were you surprised at how anyone turned out?
11. What do you imagine happens to the characters after the book is over?