



***All I'm Asking***  
**J. Marie Rundquist**  
**Reader Discussion Guide**

1. Naomi has a blind spot when it comes to her daughter, Leyanna. Is she missing signs? Or simply disregarding them? Why might she do either? Does Jackson have the same blind spot? How/why might this be?
2. What do you see as the bond between Naomi and Jessamine? What keeps their friendship strong?
3. Teachers often face two conflicting ideologies from parents and communities: On one side, teachers are expected to be everything for a student while they are at school--to act *in loco parentis*, and on the other side, they face accusations of overstepping via curriculum, dress code, or in recent times, masking. Does Naomi cross the lines for either ideology? How does she approach her students and how their lives affect their learning?
4. Jessamine tells Naomi that sometimes facing overt racism is easier than all the microaggressions and "well-meaning" behaviors. Do you agree with Jessamine? What are the layers of prejudice and bias Jessamine faces? How do these layers impact her energy to adapt to the life changes she faces?
5. How does the book club forum play into Naomi's life?
6. It is often said that there is more than one kind of family. Who makes up Naomi's family?
7. What does it mean to act as a "white savior"? Is Naomi acting as "white savior"? What makes you think she is or isn't?
8. Do you think Naomi's director, Mary Slauson, offered a fair assessment and judgment of Naomi's job performance leading up to her suspension?
9. This story in this novel is told entirely in emails, texts, forum posts, and other forms of communications. Some novels use these structures, but also include "standard" narrative form with them. How does the lack of narrative prose affect this story? What is missing from the story? What is added to the story?