

book club questions

The Woman in Me

- Discuss the significance of the title.
- Discuss the format in which you read the book, including the fact that the audio version was, for the most part, not narrated by Britney.
- One of the first bold statements Britney makes is that she was raised not to disobey her parents. Discuss the significance of this statement.
- Discuss music as an escape for Britney.
- Britney said, "Tragedy runs in my family." Discuss tragedy and its impacts on the various members of the Spears family, including Britney's father.
- Separate from tragedy, discuss trauma and its impacts on the various members of the Spears family.
- Discuss the differences between Britney's parents, including their upbringings.
- Discuss the parenting styles of the various members of the Spears family.
- Discuss the role of drugs and alcohol in the lives of the Spears family.
- Britney speaks very succinctly and matter-of-factly about her rise to fame. Why?
- Britney refers to herself and Justin Timberlake as "magnets." What drew them together so fiercely?
- Britney talks about the different ways in which the press spoke to her versus Justin. Discuss the role gender played in this.
- Was the press fair and appropriate to teenage Britney?
- Talk about the difference between perception and reality as they pertain to Britney's fame.

- Discuss the dark sides of fame in Britney's life.
- Talk about the irony in the fact that Britney was terrified of the snake used in her infamous MTV VMA performance.
- Why was Britney drawn to method acting?
- How may *The Notebook* and *Chicago* have been different with Britney in the lead role?
- How may Britney's life have been different if she starred in *The Notebook* and *Chicago*?
- In talking about declining a role in *Chicago*, Britney said, "I had power back then. I wish I'd used it more thoughtfully, been more rebellious." Why is her hindsight 20/20?
- Why did Britney prefer staying in her "safe zone," as she calls it?
- Why didn't Britney say anything before about Justin's infidelity?
- Why did Britney cheat on Justin?
- Does Britney regret her abortion?
- Discuss the impact of Britney's abortion on her life both during it and thereafter.
- Did it surprise you that no one knew about Britney's abortion except Justin and Felicia?
- Discuss how Britney and Justin each portrayed their breakup publicly and why.
- Did the way in which Britney's and Justin's breakup happened surprise you?
- Discuss the changes in Britney's adolescent sister Jamie Lynn, how their relationship changed, and why.
- Why did Britney begin to feel like a child again after her breakup with Justin?
- About her breakup with Justin, Britney said, "There's always been more leeway in Hollywood for men than for women[.]" Discuss this.
- Discuss Britney's experiences of shame after her breakup with Justin and how she coped with the situation.
- Why was Britney happy that Justin revealed publicly their relationship was sexual?
- Why were Britney's breasts and virginity so publicly discussed? Was this appropriate?
- Would a teenage girl's breasts and virginity be fair game to discuss today?
- How has Britney's self-described empathy impacted her life?
- What caused Britney's anxiety?
- What role did Britney's time in New York City play in her life?
- What role did Madonna play in Britney's life?
- Does Diane Sawyer owe Britney an apology?

- Why did Britney marry her childhood friend, Jason Alexander?
- What attracted Britney to Kevin Federline?
- What do you make of Britney's admissions that she was "mean" during her pregnancies?
- Discuss how parenting caused Britney to become more childlike.
- What mental health support did Britney lack during her pregnancies and early years of parenting?
- Discuss the role of Paris Hilton in Britney's life.
- Was the press fair to Britney during her "partying" phase?
- Discuss Britney's statement, "I had no freedom, and yet, also no security."
- How did grief impact Britney's life?
- Why did Britney shave her head?
- Was Britney's attack on the paparazzi's car justified?
- Did your perception of Britney's infamous "Gimme More" performance change after hearing her version of events?
- Did your perception of Britney's mental health crisis and psychological hold change after hearing her version of events?
- Describe the role of "the photographer" and other boyfriends in Britney's life.
- What emotions drove Britney's actions just prior to her conservatorship?
- Was the conservatorship warranted?
- Was the legal system fair to Britney?
- Was Britney's mother "cruel," as Britney describes her, for publishing her memoir?
- Discuss the statement of Britney's father: "I'm Britney Spears now."
- Why did Britney go along with the conservatorship for so long?
- Britney suggests her conservatorship was sexist. Do you agree?
- Did anything about the conservatorship surprise you?
- Discuss Britney's statement that "people seemed to experience my body as public property" and the impact this had on her life.
- Both in the book and in real life, Britney has said of her work during the conservatorship, "I wasn't good. I was great." What do you make of this?

- How did it make you feel to learn that the conservatorship "crushed her soul" and transformed her into "a sort of child-robot" and a "bird without wings" that was "ritually tortured"?
- What did Britney see in her inspiration, Reese Witherspoon?
- Discuss the many parallels in the generational trauma in the Spears family, including the fact that both Britney and her grandmother were forced to take Lithium.
- Why did the #FreeBritney movement mean so much to Britney?
- Discuss Britney's life post-conservatorship and what "freedom" means to her.
- What got Britney through it all?
- Describe Britney's personality.
- What do you think motivated Britney to write this book?
- Did your perception of Britney change after reading this book?
- How do you think the people referenced in the book will react to it?
- What do you wish for Britney's future?