

*I Can't Remember if I Cried* lends itself to great discussions by book groups. Readers have asked for questions to guide their talks about widows, musicians, grief, love and other topics covered in the book. Enjoy your conversations!

1. The continued response to Gloria Jones' situation after Marc Bolan's death, along with other stories in the book shows how fan involvement can go to extremes. The author has often seen herself as both a big fan of musicians, and now, someone who's more aware of how often lines are crossed. Did reading the book change your feelings about fans in general, or about yourself as a fan of a particular group or musician?
2. Catherine Mayer talks about the "misogyny of the music business layered upon the misogyny of the framework of widowhood being really quite something." If you are a widow, have you encountered instances where you were treated differently? Were you expected to defer in decision-making situations? How do you think the perception of widows has changed or not changed in the past years?
3. One of the most surprising realizations while conducting interviews was how young most of the women were. For instance, Gretchen Parsons Carpenter was just twenty-one when she met Gram Parsons, and yet has been portrayed as the reason for much of his difficult behavior. Anette Walter-Lax was just eighteen when she began dating Keith Moon and dealing with his wild antics. Think back to your early twenties. What would it have been like to be in such out-of-control circumstances? How would you have handled things?
4. Jamie Weiland confronted the author with a question about why people would think she should have left her marriage to Scott Weiland when he continued to struggle with drug and alcohol abuse and mental health issues. She asks, "when you found out your husband had cancer, did you say, 'well, too bad for you, I'm going to leave now?' No, you stayed to care for him. Why is mental health any different?" What is your reaction to that? Do we treat mental health and addiction issues differently than physical health challenges? Is that changing?
5. Nancy Jones has held to a very solid faith throughout her challenging marriage to George Jones and since his death. The author discusses how her own faith waned during her husband's illness. How has faith helped you through challenging times?
6. Several widows have dealt with challenging situations because of things beyond their control—Janna Leblanc has been mostly left out of Stevie Ray Vaughan's narrative; Judy Van Zant had to sue the band to have a say in Ronnie's legacy. Discuss how these women have handled these situations particular to relationships with men who are famous and/or wealthy.
7. Gloria Jones sees her meeting Marc Bolan, their live together, and even her life after his death as part of "fate" and the way in which the universe makes all the pieces of a life fit together. Indeed, it is difficult to see how two people from different countries and such different lives, can ultimately meet and fall in love. Have there been times in your life where you felt fate was at play, or that the universe or a higher power conspired to make

something happen? If you've lost a loved one, does that thinking play a role in your attempt to understand why certain things happened?

8. Peggy Sue Honeyman-Scott is quick to remind the author that, though she lived a life many teenage girls dream of, it was also very short, and she longs for a simple, quiet marriage that lasts for twenty-plus years. Did you ever fantasize about a rock star? If so, who? Do you have different feelings about that now that you're older, or after having read these stories?
9. The story of Crystal and Warren Zevon is a true love story, despite their divorce. Crystal offers a real lesson in forgiveness. Warren asked her to write his biography, which she did by reading his journals, which contained difficult information for her to learn. But, in the end, as difficult as it was, she was glad she did it. "It allowed me to know and to forgive everything. And now I just really miss him." How does forgiveness differ when the person with whom you seek reconciliation is no longer there? Would you have agreed to write Warren's biography as Crystal did, knowing you may find information you'd rather not know?
10. Sandy Helm discusses the hardships she experienced with Levon, especially after The Band broke up and members were scraping by having sold their publishing rights and no longer drawing crowds or selling records. Nearly all widows have had unpleasant interactions with managers or record companies. Ingrid Croce fought for ten years to get what was due her after Jim Croce's death. Were you surprised by this or other stories of the business ups and downs within the music industry?