

ALPHA SIGMA ALPHA ALUMNAE BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
JULY 2021 – “WE BEGIN AT THE END” BY CHRIS WHITAKER

1. What was your favorite moment from “We Begin at the End”? Why that moment?
2. Outlaw Duchess Day Radley is not a normal teenager for a variety of reasons. What were your thoughts on the character of Duchess, and how did those thoughts change throughout the book and her continued hardships?
3. Star tells her daughter, “Selfless acts, Duchess. They’re what make you a good person.” (chapter 5, p. 42), yet she seems to be entirely selfish in many of her actions. Why do you think this is? Do you agree with Star? What makes a good person good?
4. When Duchess first arrives at her grandfather’s, she won’t eat and is unwilling to let him into her life. As their relationship grows and changes, how do you think Hal’s actions helped Duchess to open up to him?
5. Walt thought that after their mother’s death, Duchess and Robin should be brought to live with their grandfather. However after Hal’s death, the children are moved from place to place through social services, struggling to find someone to adopt them. Do you think that Walt should have intervened at this point, instead of the difficulties the children continued to face? Why or why not?
6. Dolly and Thomas Noble both played important roles in Duchess’s story. How did they help Duchess grow as a person, and what do you think they contributed to the overall message of the book?
7. Darke is portrayed as a murderous (rightfully) and villainous character throughout the book. Upon learning about the story of his wife and daughter, did you feel any sympathy towards his character? Why or why not?
8. One of the biggest questions throughout the book was whether or not Vincent King was innocent in killing Star. Were you surprised to learn the truth about the night that Star was killed? While reading the book, who did you think was responsible for her death?
9. Do you think Duchess should have spoken with Robin when she went to see him at the end of the book, or do you think it was the best decision for her to walk away? Why or why not?
10. Were you surprised to learn the truth behind Duchess and Robin’s parentage? How did you think that revelation added to the rest of the story?