



## ***DISCUSSION QUESTIONS***

### **I DON'T HAVE A HAPPY PLACE by Kim Korson**

1. What does the title *I Don't Have a Happy Place* suggest, beyond the idea that Kim has difficulty being happy? What exactly is a "happy place," and why is she -- or anyone -- supposed to have one? Is it a good thing to have a happy place, or is it just a form of denial?
2. Why do you think Kim starts her memoir with a story about drowning? What does this suggest about her world view/view of life, or how she feels about life in general? How does it set the tone for the book?
3. In "Eight Weeks," Kim is "secretly thrilled" when she almost gets kicked out of camp because she's "never almost been kicked out of anything." Why does this thrill her? What could she have to gain by being kicked out of something?
4. In "There's No Business," Kim realizes that she's "bad at jobs." In the moment, it feels like a low point for Kim, but how does it fit into the rest of her story? Are low points always just low points?
5. What does it say about Kim and her self-knowledge -- subconscious or otherwise - - that she's ultimately drawn to a guy like Buzz? What do they have to offer each other, and why does it work? How does the marriage proposal reflect that? And how does the image of the wisdom tooth growing sideways into her cheek at the end of the chapter fit in?
6. In "Lemons & Limes," Kim is pregnant, and having anxiety about parenting...and the squirrel in her house. What's the connection between these two things? What does the squirrel represent?
7. Kim starts the book with a drowning, and ends it with Dr. X and the non-diagnosis, and an important realization. When you look back on her journey, what do you see as the key events that got her where she is today? Does her journey feel like a victory to you, or would you have liked her to go farther toward finding a happy place?