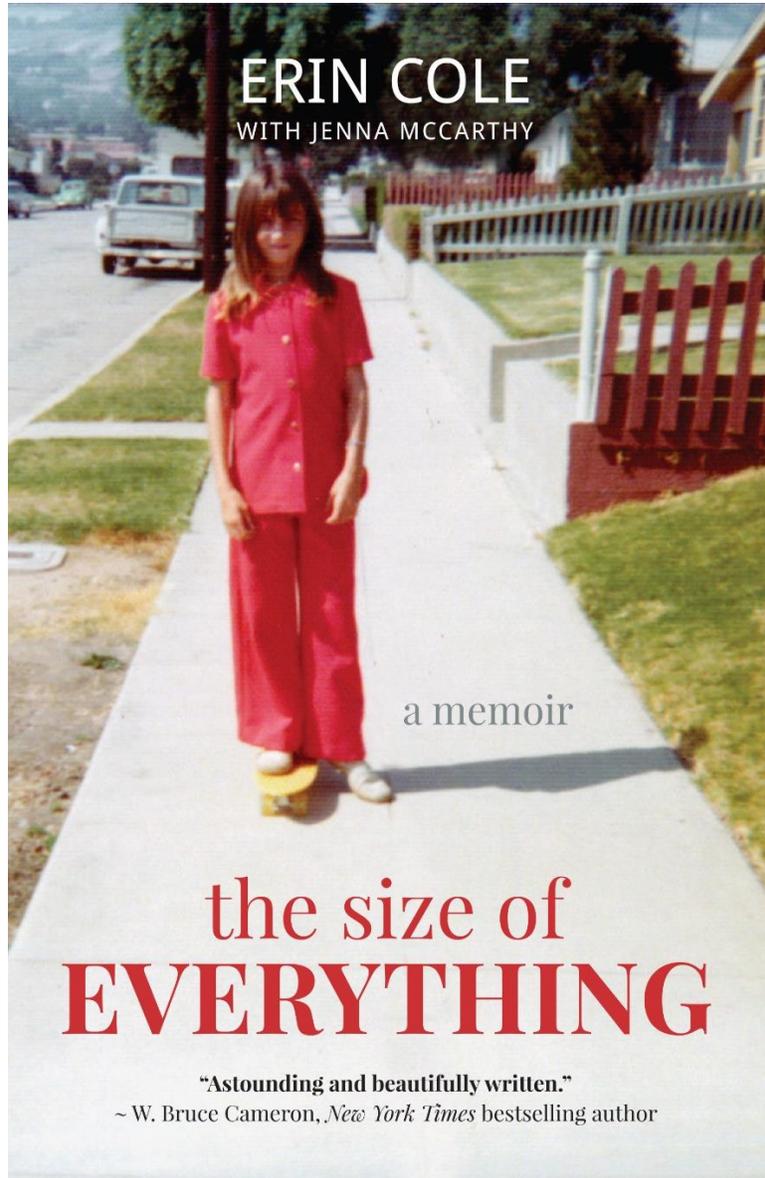


the size of EVERYTHING

book club discussion guide



QUESTIONS

What do you think Erin's purpose was in writing this book?

Which (if any) character could you relate to the most?

If you could hear Erin's story from the perspective of any other character in the book, who would you choose and why?

There was no shortage of villains in this story; in your opinion, who was the worst and why?

After Erin's parents divorced, they each remarried a spouse who physically abused her and her siblings. Do you think there's any correlation there or was it simply an unfortunate coincidence?

How or why do you think Erin was able to rise so far above such grim circumstances when so many people would have taken a different path?

If you had to describe the way Erin tells her own story in one word, what would it be? (Acceptance, bitterness, resignation, humor, victimhood, irony, sadness, and grace are some generalized examples.)

Different people believe our lives are ruled by chance, fate or desire. Which if any of these do you feel governed Erin Cole's life? What about her siblings? Her parents?

What did you like most about this book?

What did you like least about this book?

In memoir in particular, what is left unsaid can be more powerful than what is described in great detail. Can you think of an example from the book that illustrates this?

Would you have felt differently about this book if it were a work of fiction rather than nonfiction? Why or why not?

Was there a section or story from the book that stuck with you and refuses to leave?

Did you find the end of the book satisfying? Why or why not?

If there was a sequel to this book, what would you want it to include?

Did anything about this book change the way you think about your own childhood or life story?