HEAVEN ADJACENT BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

1. Roseanna is a high-powered attorney living a successful life in the city. When faced with a moment of crisis, she drives off and leaves everything behind. Do you think this was a rash decision or something that had been brewing for a long time?

2. Why does the inciting incident of Alice’s untimely death affect Roseanna so deeply in ways other life experiences she had encountered had not?

3. No sooner does Roseanna think she has found peace and quiet away from everything and everyone than she discovers people squatting on her new property. As time goes on more uninvited guests appear and ask to stay. This also includes a lost and aging horse. Even though she protests their presence, Roseanna allows them to stay. In what ways did her relationship with these tenants transform over the course of the book?

4. Roseanna has an estranged relationship with her son, Lance. When he shows up looking for her following her disappearance, it creates both conflict and opportunity in their relationship. How does their mother-son bond grow and shift over the course of the book?

5. One of the memories Lance brings up to his mother is how he’d always wanted a dog as a child. How did the author use this unresolved desire to bring their relationship closer? Why do you think her son ultimately decides to stay for a while?

6. Inspired by the little girl living on her property, Roseanna creates an ‘iron zoo,’ which attracts a lot of attention from the town and eventually a reporter. Discuss ways these sculptures end up touching and inspiring others? Do you think they helped Roseanna as well?

7. After Roseanna walks out on her business partner, Jerry, he files an expensive and emotionally draining lawsuit against her. Because of her choice to leave the past behind, Roseanna faces the possibility of losing almost everything she has left. Do you agree with her son’s intervention into the matter, and the ultimate outcome?

8. At one point the reporter from the New York Times who first revealed Roseanna’s location returns to see how she’s doing. He reminds her, “You told me you hadn’t lost anything you couldn’t afford to lose.” What do you think Roseanna meant when she said those words?

9. For the sculpture of Alice, which Roseanna called ‘a real sculpture’ sculpted from metal, why do you think Roseanna chose to portray Alice paddling in a canoe?