

# read **fierce** DISCUSSION GUIDE

## I WANNA BE WHERE YOU ARE by Kristina Forest



### ABOUT THE BOOK:

"In a world where it's easy to lose faith in love, I WANNA BE WHERE YOU ARE is a brilliant burst of light. A dazzling debut." — Nic Stone, New York Times bestselling author of DEAR MARTIN and ODD ONE OUT

When Chloe Pierce's mom forbids her to apply for a spot at the dance conservatory of her dreams, she devises a secret plan to drive two hundred miles to the nearest audition. But Chloe hits her first speed bump when her annoying neighbor Eli insists upon hitching a ride, threatening to tell Chloe's mom if she leaves him and his smelly dog, Geezer, behind. So now Chloe's chasing her ballet dreams down the east coast—two unwanted (but kinda cute) passengers in her car, butterflies in her stomach, and a really dope playlist on repeat.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Chloe struggles with lying to her mom at the beginning of the book. Do you think she made the right decision? Also, what prevented her from being honest?
2. Becoming a professional ballet dancer is Chloe's dream, but her mom only wants her to go to college. What do you think is the best decision for Chloe to make about her future and why do Chloe and her mom see things so differently?
3. Chloe, Eli, and Trey have all been friends since they were little. Compare Chloe's relationships with Eli and Trey. Why does she clash so much with Eli?
4. After recovering from a broken ankle, Chloe isn't sure she'll ever dance the same again. Why is she willing to take such a big risk for this audition? Would you do the same?
5. Both Eli and Chloe have rocky relationships with their parents. From the parents' perspectives, do you think there's anything they should have done differently?
6. Chloe blames Eli for her broken ankle and harbors a lot of resentment towards him for standing her up. Is it truly worth holding a grudge in a situation where the other person lacks accountability?
7. In many ways we see Eli try to be supportive of Chloe's aspirations and dreams. In your opinion what are the best ways to be a supportive friend?
8. Eli's father is very reluctant to believe in Eli's preferred college choice and career goals for himself. Have you ever had to fight for your own path in life? If so, how did you do it?
9. If you were Chloe, at what point would you have just given up and gone back home? Or would you have continued to pursue the audition like she did?
10. As an old friend of both Chloe and Eli, Trey is very open and honest about his sexuality with those he is close with. How important do you think it was for Chloe and Eli to be accepting of their friend despite being separated for such a long time?