



Windy City Publishers

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## BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Heather remarks very early in the book, “Contrary to the portrayal of Africa in the media as a war-torn, insect- and disease-infested, poverty-stricken monolith, it’s an incredibly diverse continent ...” Did this book change your views about Africa? If so, how?
2. Heather writes, “I believe cultural sensitivity is an important part of staying safe.” When you travel in foreign lands, what do you do to learn about their cultures? Are there times you believe this knowledge has kept you safe?
3. At its heart, *I Never Intended to be Brave* is the story of following one’s dream despite unexpected obstacles and great uncertainties. Have you ever followed your dreams despite great obstacles? After reading this book, are you more inspired to pursue one of your dreams, despite any perceived difficulties? What challenges have you overcome to achieve past dreams?
4. A key turning point in the book is Heather’s decision to go on alone. What characteristics does she exhibit in making this decision? Do you think you would have made a similar choice?
5. Travelling by bicycle, Heather exposes herself to the world on a level many of us never do. How does the idea of such exposure resonate with you? What feelings does it evoke?
6. Heather talks about feeling fulfilled by the simple rhythm of life on the road. Why do you think this lifestyle is so fulfilling? When in your life have you felt most fulfilled?
7. Heather describes many acts of kindness by strangers. Do you think these acts were simply human nature, particular to southern Africa’s cultures, or something else?
8. What do you think Heather means when she says, “Safety is an illusion?” Do you agree?
9. Did this book give you pause to think about your dreams and inspire you to pursue them?