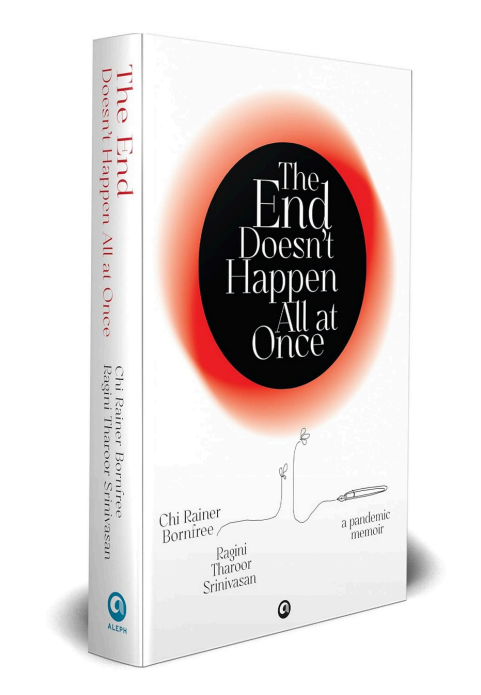
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(1) *The End Doesn't Happen All At Once* is an unusual memoir because it was written as the events were happening. How does writing in real time contribute to the power of the book? How does it impact what the writers are able to address and reflect on?

(2) The memoir is also unusual in being co-written, or collaborative. How did having two perspectives on the unfolding events work for you? Did you find yourself sympathizing with one author more than the other? Did you feel able to enter into C and R's friendship? Why or why not?

(3) Pick a letter that really resonated with you. Now go back in your photo archives and look at photos from around that time. Perhaps you'd like to check your journals, calendar, or email history, too. What was happening in your life during the same period? How was it similar or different to what was happening in the lives of C and R?

(4) *The End Doesn't Happen All At Once is* full of disagreements, big and small—like whether to travel, or what level of risk to accept. How do these conflicts drive the story? Do they reflect broader societal debates you've seen or experienced? What were some moments you felt yourself disagreeing with the author(s)?



(5) Early in the letters, C expresses the hope that the virus will help us learn and help us change (April 16, 2020). R responds, "Yes… I would add that there is value in learning again what we already know" (April 23, 2020). How do you see this difference in values— towards change and towards re-learning — play out in their choices in the rest of the book?

6) Feminists have long proclaimed that "the personal is political." Look for some passages where the difficulties — and surprising benefits — of living and working in the same space during a political crisis came to the forefront. How do you think the book contributes to the feminist project of underlining the political dimensions of personal experience?

(7) How did the authors portray the other people in their lives, and what was their influence on the authors' life choices or outcomes? Who did you think was the most interesting of these secondary characters, and why?

(8) Why do you think Bornfree and Srinivasan wrote this book? If you could ask the authors one question about this book, what would it be?



(9) After reading the book, what do you remember about the pandemic that you thought you had forgotten?

(10) After reading the book, do you think or feel differently about your experience of the pandemic? Will you change anything in your life?

*Did you read **The End Doesn't Happen All At Once** with your book club? Email ragini.and.chi@gmail.com with proof of purchase of 5+ copies to receive exclusive bonus content!*