

## Discussion Guide: *Wild Mountain Ivy*

1. How does long Covid affect what Ivy is able to do in her daily life?
2. What frustrates Ivy about the way people tend to treat her after she gets long Covid? How do Uncle Cam, Steve, and Celeste break that mold?
3. Ivy and Jessie have a lot in common. Which shared interest or experience feels most powerful to you and why?
4. Ivy reflects that Jessie's experience at the Everly House would've been very different from the experience of a Black person like Beulah or another person of color like Priya. What are some differences that are mentioned in the story? What others can you think of?
5. After Alice's death, Jessie notices that most evidence of her presence at the Everly House quickly disappears. When Nurse Heller destroys Nurse Scott's belongings, the patients are upset. Why do you think preserving possessions, like Jessie's treasure box, is important to these characters? How do the objects that mattered to people in life speak for them after they're gone?
6. How is Jessie changed by her time at the Everly House? What is something negative and something positive about her experience that will stay with her?
7. Why do you think Ivy stops dreaming of Jessie after arranging to give Jessie's box to Mrs. Williams?
8. Make a list of factors that help Ivy along her road to recovery. Which ones stand out as things that could help you cope with a challenge in your life?
9. Ivy realizes that even if she doesn't get "back to normal," she can still live a fulfilling life. What are some examples of accommodations that others make for her, or that she makes for herself, so that she can do things she wants to do?
10. Throughout the story, characters honor people who have died in various ways: through music, through passing on knowledge or skills, through sharing memories of them. Which act felt most impactful to you and why?