



Can we talk?

"There is that lovely feeling of one reader telling another, 'You must read this.' I've always wanted to write a book like that, with the sense that you are contributing to the discourse in middle America, a discourse that begins at a book club in a living room, but then spreads. That is meaningful to me."

-Abraham Verghese (*Cutting For Stone*)

I'm with Abraham Verghese. As a longtime member of a book group (23 years and going strong, I'm familiar with the singular joy of that "living room discourse" and how much more I appreciate a book after discussing it with my fellow readers.

[Fun fact 1: Abraham Verghese's masterpiece, *Cutting For Stone*, was my book group's selection in September of 2010, and a lively discourse ensued in my very own living room!]

Since publishing *First Quiver*, I've had the pleasure of talking about my book with individual readers as well as groups. The questions readers have brought to the table have led to spirited debates about everything from the meaning of love to the lifestyle of those immoral immortals.

That's why I'm so excited to tell you about two new opportunities to join in the discussion:

- On **Thursday, March 18th** at 3 p.m. EST, the Weston Public Library (in Massachusetts) is hosting a *First Quiver* book talk by Zoom, and
- On **Sunday, March 28th** at 4 p.m. EST, I will be hosting a special **subscribers-only** Zoom, and you're all invited!

Links to both Zoom events can be found at the subscribers-only page of my website -> [Click here](#). No RSVP necessary, but you probably want to read the book first so you don't spoil yourself!



Invite Cupid to book group!

[Click here to visit my Book Group Page](#)

Click that red button to access my book group resources:



Discussion Guide

Download a **Book Discussion Guide** for First Quiver.



Author Visit

Let's put our calendars together to find a Zoom date!



Get Featured

Answer a few questions and submit a photo (Zoom squares work fine!) and I promise I'll make your book group as famous as I am.



Enter Book 2 Giveaway!

Tag me on your SM post about your book group's *FQ* discussion to enter to win *Into the Quiet* for every member (*max. 12*).

3 MINUTE MYTHOLOGY



THE STORY OF ECHO AND NARCISSUS

Echo was living the typical mountain nymph's life until Zeus roped her into chatting for hours with Hera (his oft-spurned wife) to distract her while he was being unfaithful. When Hera realized his scheme, she cursed Echo so that she no longer had a voice of her own but was only able to repeat the words of others.

Meanwhile, a baby named Narcissus was born so handsome, his mother (the nymph Liriope) took him to a seer, who predicted "the boy would live a long life only if he never discovered himself." Heeding the warning, his mother kept him from mirrors, and the beautiful baby grew to be a beautiful demi-god.

[As Ovid's version of the story goes...] One day, Echo spied Narcissus out hunting and fell immediately in love. Awkward and unable to speak until spoken to, Echo remained hidden. Narcissus, sensing he was being watched, called out, "Who's there?" Bound by Hera's curse, Echo repeated his question. Startled, he called, "Come here," and heard his words repeated. Now curious, he coaxed her out. "This way, we must come together." Taking this as a reciprocation of her feelings, Echo left her hiding spot. "We must come together!"

Face to face with Echo, Narcissus (famously unable to love anyone but himself) cried out, "Hands off! May I die before you enjoy my body." Poor Echo had no choice but to repeat the last of his words, "Enjoy my body," as she fled to her mountains leaving only her voice behind.

Hearing this story, Nemesis, the goddess of revenge, lured Narcissus to a pool where he promptly fell in love with his own

reflection and killed himself because he could never have the object of his desire.

There's Love for you, per the ancient poets. See why I'm rewriting it?

First Quiver turned one month old this week. Thank you to everyone who bought, recommended, or posted on social media about the book. Readers' word-of-mouth is an author's best friend. And special warm and fuzzies to anyone who left a rating or a review anywhere or everywhere. [Fun fact 2: You do not have to purchase a book on Amazon to leave a review there.]

Got suggestions? Questions? Complaints? Your replies go straight to my inbox. Until we meet again, stay safe!

Beth

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Beth C Greenberg

4525 Dean Martin Drive | Las Vegas, NV 89103 | US

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