



Discussion Guide
Unmaking Grace
by Barbara Boswell

1. What are some of the early indications in the novel that Patrick may be a man inclined to violence?
2. What are some of the triggers for Patrick's violence? How are these characteristic of gender-based violence?
3. How does Patrick attempt to control his wife?
4. What are the effects of violence on the lives of Mary and Grace? How does gender-based violence affect Grace, first as a child, and later as an adult?
5. How do some of the relationship patterns that Grace witnessed as a child recur in her adult life?
6. How could some of the poor decisions Grace makes for herself have been avoided?
7. If you could go back and rewrite some of the poor decisions the characters in this novel make, how would you change what they do? What other outcomes would be available to them?
8. What role does memory play in motivating Grace and her decisions?
9. What are the different types of masculinity portrayed in the novel?
10. How does the nature of gender-based violence change in the periods portrayed in the novel? Are there any differences between the characters who live during apartheid, and in the post-apartheid period?