

GOOP BOOK CLUB

A Reading Guide for *Just Like You* by Nick Hornby

Sure, you might get made fun of if you underline your books. But we like being able to look back at the passages, scenes, words, quotes, and turns in a story that affected us. And we like being able to talk about them with you. Let us know what you think in our book club Facebook group.

Here, we've picked some of the most poignant moments from *Just Like You*.

1. Page 12: "The information Emma did not wish to divulge was that she had been entirely faithful to her husband for the duration of her married life, Lucy knew that. It was her deep, dark secret: that despite all the talk about eating people up and pork loins, Emma had done nothing and would never do anything."
2. Page 28: "He never told Cassie that they were different. It was too important to her that they were the same."
3. Page 41: "But you couldn't ask strangers how they were. You asked friends how they were. The inquiry presupposed some kind of knowledge of the past, a context in which to set the answer, and he had nothing."
4. Page 97: "'No,' he said, and he shrugged, the shrug suggesting the opposite somehow."
5. Page 157: "His mother could sustain an argument forever, simply by switching sides right in the middle of it."
6. Page 178: "He smiled and said hello, and hovered for a moment, in case she invited him to sit with her, but she looked at him as if he'd ordered a large dead cat stewed in its own vomit, and turned away."
7. Page 182: "There would be no tears or accusation or self-flagellation, either, which was of course a good thing, but also implied a kind of insecurity, like a zero-hours contract. The end of a marriage was miserable and difficult, but that was because it was a living, breathing thing, and when it died, grief was inevitable."

8. Page 183: “That’s a stupid way to make a political decision,’ said Lucy, before remembering that she had voted in exactly the same way. Perhaps that’s how everyone had done it, in the end.”
9. Page 221: “His obvious keenness was sort of embarrassing, oblivious. In another way, he was glad it was business as usual, because he could therefore prove that Hanna was feeling the weirdness, not him, even though above the waist he was feeling it too. Maybe when you got older, your body started listening to the rest of you. Like, no, this is weird. I’m just going to lie here until you sort it out.”
10. Page 227: “They turned down the drive and walked around the back of the cottage to find Joseph and the kids playing a violent and apparently hilarious version of water polo with a football, and Lucy wondered how many versions of a nice life she had a right to expect.”
11. Page 245: “They didn’t arrive hand in hand, nor did they touch during the evening; in other words, they did nothing to differentiate themselves from any of the other couples there.”
12. Page 325: “There would come a time when Al and Dylan would be sitting in somebody else’s kitchen, trying to decide which version of themselves to present to someone who might or might not like them.”
13. Page 343: “Deciding to forgive, after all, was not the same thing as forgiveness.”