

GOOP BOOK CLUB

A Reading Guide for *Sorrow and Bliss* by Meg Mason

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](#).

1. Page 5: “We extended the lease by six months, fourteen times, as though things could not work out at any moment.”
2. Page 28: “She told us it was because Winsome was controlling and obsessed with appearances and, sister or not, she could not relate to someone whose twin passions were renovation and large group catering.”
3. Page 33: “Last year, I got glasses that I do not need because the optometrist fell off his rolling stool during the eye-test. He looked so mortified I started reading the letters wrongly on purpose. They are in the glove box, still in the bag.”
4. Page 49: “There isn’t a name for the emotion that registered on his face then. It was all of them. Patrick left after that.”
5. Page 93: “That scene and every other seemed to vibrate with brilliance and humor as I typed them. The next day they read like the work of a fifteen-year-old with encouraging parents.”
6. Page 97: “Nicholas put his arm around me and said, ‘Martha, you are a fool.’ We walked like that for a while, back through Fitzrovia. Later, we turned up towards Notting Hill. I asked him if he thought we should be eating more carbohydrates. He said, Martha, we should be getting jobs.”
7. Page 111: “I laughed and Peregrine looked unhappy. ‘I am not being whimsical, Martha. Short another, beauty is a reason to live.’”
8. Page 136: “I was so happy for her and did not know how I was going to survive it.”

9. Page 156: "It is hard to look into someone's eyes. Even when you love them, it is difficult to sustain it, for the sense of being seen through. In some way, found out. But, for as long as the kiss had lasted, I didn't feel guilty for being so happy, when I had just taken something away from Patrick so that I could have what I wanted."
10. Page 180: "I said no thank you. I had always been too afraid to be among those people in case they didn't think it was weird I was there."
11. Page 223: "'Martha,' he said afterwards, lying next to me. 'Everything is broken and messed up and completely fine. That is what life is. It's only the ratios that change. Usually on their own. As soon as you think that's it, it's going to be like this forever, they change again.'"
12. Page 281: "It had been nearly a month, hours and hours of every day, and as though it was now her turn my mother said, 'Martha, no marriage makes sense. Especially not to the outside world. A marriage is its own world.'"
13. Page 335: "I can't say I have forgiven the things that were done to me—not because I haven't. Just because, Ingrid says and it is true, people who talk about how they've forgiven others sound so arseholey."
14. Pages 336–337: "It is easier to say yes, you're so right, because it is too much work to explain to them that you can stop and start again from nothing, that you can love the same person twice."