



GET IT
TOGETHER,
Delilah!



ERIN GOUGH

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Ages 14 and up

Seventeen-year-old Delilah Green wouldn't have chosen to do her last year of school this way, but she figures it's working fine. Her dad is on a trip to fix his broken heart after her mom left him for another man, so Del's managing the family café in his absence. Easy, she thinks. But what about:

- * homework and the nasty posse of mean girls making her life hell
- * or how one of Del's best friends won't stop guilt-tripping her
- * and how her other best friend is so in love with his tutor he might go to jail for her if Del doesn't do something

But who cares about any of that really, because above all else, she can't stop thinking about beautiful Rosa who dances flamenco every night across the street. Until one day Rosa comes in the café door . . .

And if Rosa starts thinking about Del, too, then how in the name of strawberry milkshakes will Del get the rest of it together?

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide contains discussion questions designed to spark conversation about themes and ideas raised by this novel.



1. In the opening chapters of the novel, Del makes a firm distinction between fantasy (dancing with Rosa) and reality. What would you say was the biggest catalyst in the transformation of that fantasy into reality?
2. “Now it’s like we spend our time waving at each other with a canyon between us. No matter how madly we wave, we can’t actually reach each other” (22). Discuss the friendship between Lauren and Del. Why do you think they have such a tough time connecting with each other at the beginning of the novel? Imagine that Del came to you for friendship advice. What would you say to her? What advice would you give to Lauren?
3. Were you surprised by how much (or how little) school authorities got involved with Del’s truancy? Do you think Mrs. Cronenberg should have contacted Del’s mother earlier in the story?
6. Likewise, what was your reaction to the way Del’s school handled the illicit video posting of Del dancing on YouTube? Should the teachers have been more involved? Why or why not?
4. Lauren is placed in a difficult position: her best friend is failing out of school and then decides to stop going to class altogether. What do you think about her response to the situation? How would you respond if your friend was cutting school and you knew teachers might be contacting child support services?
5. Del’s mother June urges her to move to Melbourne. Del gives her reasons for not wanting to leave. Do you agree with June in this situation, or Del? What advantages might Del gain by moving in with her mom? Are there any additional reasons why she should stay in Sydney?
6. Recognizing and accepting the “gray area” in a situation—rather than reducing circumstances to a simplistic “black” or “white” interpretation—can be a sign of maturity. Explain how this idea applies to Del’s character. How does she acknowledge ambiguity? Overall, do you think Del matures over the course of the book?
7. One surprising twist happens when Charlie and Lauren begin a romantic relationship. How does this contribute to the overall arc of the book?
8. Charlie tells Del that she has a habit of “putting things on the same scale that should not be on the same scale.” What does he mean exactly? Immediately afterwards, Del compares his loyalty to the loyalty of others: “I can always depend on [Charlie] to be in my corner—more than Lauren, who lately wants to argue with me rather than support me; more than Dad, who isn’t even here; certainly more than Rosa” (218). Do you think this is a fair comparison?
9. Late in the book, Mrs. Cronenberg says that Del is brave. Do you agree? Why or why not? What does it mean to be brave?
10. Consider each of Del’s relationships—with Charlie, Lauren, and Rosa. What does this book tell you about the essential ingredients of a true friendship?
11. Many contemporary books, TV shows, and movies feature a controversial archetype commonly known as the “gay best friend.” *Get It Together, Delilah!* turns the “gay best friend” into the main character of the story. How was your experience of the novel informed by reading it from the first-person perspective of Del? Would you have experienced the book differently reading from Charlie’s point of view, or Lauren’s? If so, how?
12. Even though much of her personal life causes her confusion, one thing Del seems sure of throughout the novel is that she is gay. In your opinion, who or what presents the greatest challenge to her sexual identity? How does Del ultimately overcome this challenge?



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Erin Gough won Hardie Grant’s Ampersand Prize for debut fiction for this book. She lives in Australia.