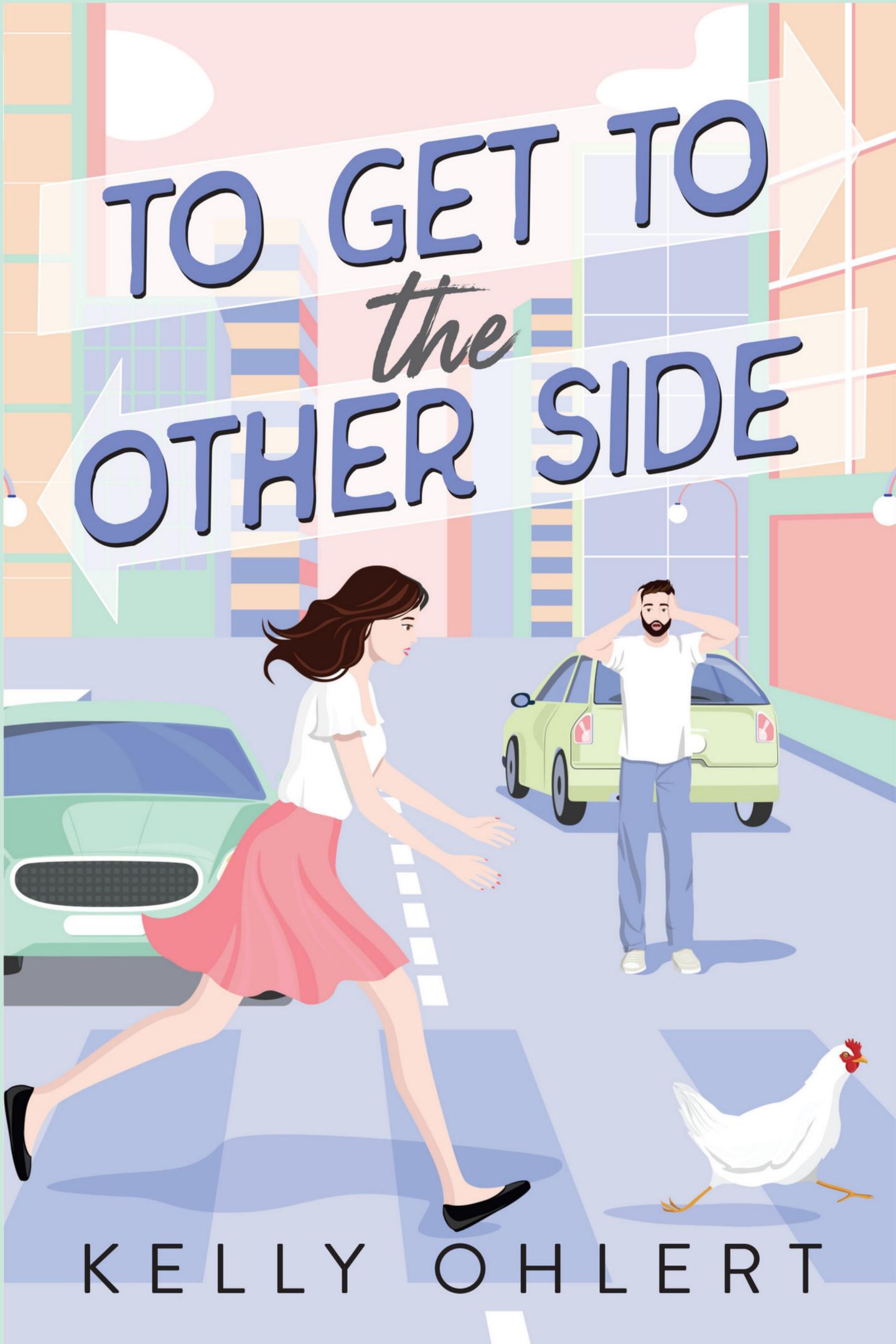


Book Club Kit



Discussion Questions

1

Trixie is afraid to trust Bear with her emotions. Do you allow yourself to feel your emotions, or do you bottle them up? How do you feel this affects your relationships?

2

Bear takes a long time to decide on the risk of changing his career.

Trixie flips her life upside down quickly after meeting Chick-Chick. Are you a risk taker, or do you shy away from it and/or need time to mull over big decisions?

3

Did you feel Bear's family was too involved, or did you like the way that they meddled? How would you feel if family intervened in your affairs in a similar way?

4

In what ways does the Trauma of Bear and Trixie's upbringings guide their actions throughout the book? To what extent do you believe people's personalities are shaped by nature vs. nurture?

5

How did the responsibility for the shared care of Chick-Chick impact their relationship?

6

Bullying played a large role in Bear's past. What action can we take in our communities to prevent children like Bear from feeling like they have to change who they are in order to create a safe space for themselves?

7

How do you think things would have played out differently if Bear and Trixie had dated, but not shared a living space?

8

Trixie faces debt and uproots herself for her new pet. What or who in your life would you take such drastic measures for?



Do you believe Trixie's impulsive decisions regarding Chick-Chick impact how Bear perceives her advice regarding the flower shop?

Author Q&A

Q Where did you get the idea for this story?

A I called my friend Gretchen one day and she told me this wild story of how she'd found an injured chicken crossing the road and wound up keeping it in her flat in the city. She'd gotten her the care she needed, including a wheelchair. I immediately knew this belonged in a book, and asked if she minded if I used it as inspiration, and that became my first chapter. I had the hardest time picturing a chicken in a flat, so that led to the idea of her needing to find a new place, and it became a roommates to lovers story.

Q Have you ever had a pet chicken?

A Nope! But Gretchen was kind enough to tell me all about her experience with the real-life Chick-Chick, and I did a lot of chicken related research for the book. I have had a lot of other pets throughout my life though including fish, a snake, cats, dogs, ferrets, and sugar gliders.

Q Why did you elect to include the theme of gender stereotypes?

A I think it's important to leave space for queer and gender-diverse stories to be told by individuals who have lived that experience. That said, I believe one of the best ways create a safe space for the LGBTQ+ community is to begin by breaking down the gender stereotypes that lead to some of the polarizing biases that some people unfortunately hold. I'm not a perfect ally, but I want to help where I can. This felt like a way that I can contribute, and a lived experience I could write from. I've never conformed well to gender stereotypes, and in high school I began playing ice hockey. I was one of only two girls in my school who played, and faced comments like, "Girls shouldn't be allowed to play hockey."

Author Q&A

Q Wow, that must have been frustrating. Why did you choose some of the examples of gender stereotypes in the book that you did?

A I wanted to show that sometimes it is big and obvious, but sometimes it's subtle as well. Bear prefers to drink beer in front of others, even though he'd rather be drinking wine, because I've gotten raised eyebrows at girl's nights opting for beer. It's ridiculous for something like beverage choices, clothing color, types of toys, etc. to fall into gender stereotypes. I also felt it was appropriate for Bear to be especially sensitive to any and all of these stereotypes given his history, so while something like his comment about Trixie not being afraid to eat in front of him felt cringey to write, it was something he would notice, because he is going to be impressed any time someone is willing to subvert a perceived gender norm.

Author Bio



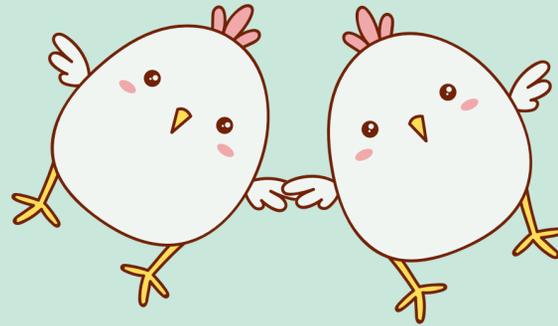
Kelly Ohlert loves books about . . . well, love! Since laughter is the best medicine, she's only doing her civic duty to heal human souls by incorporating humor as well. She's a lifelong avid reader of all genres, and as a busy mom has an enthusiastic appreciation for audio books and multi-tasking.



Special Grilled Cheese

Ingredients:

- 1 oz. Garlic Mayonnaise
- 2 Slices Gouda Cheese
- 2 Slices Muenster Cheese
- 2 Slices Sourdough Bread
- ¼ Sliced Apple



Directions:

1. Spread Garlic Mayo on bread
2. Place 1 slice each of Gouda and Muenster Cheese on 1 piece of bread
3. In a pan, toast bread, and melt cheese
4. Once cheese is melted, add apple and the other slices of gouda and muenster.
5. Flip sandwich and toast and melt other side
6. Serve solo or with tomato soup.