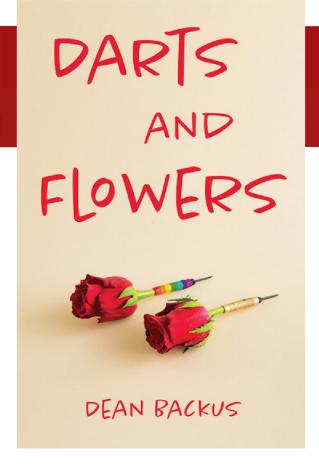
# Darts and Flowers

## Dean Backus

## Discussion Questions

- 1. There are more than a few characters in *Darts and Flowers* who are more than what they seem, or not as they present themselves. Which characters do you see as examples of this?
- 2. In some ways *Darts and Flowers* is a cautionary tale about expectations and plans that go awry. Where do you see this?
- 3. *Darts and Flowers* has a strong theme running through it that who we are as children is still who we are as young adults. Do you agree or disagree?
- 4. *Darts and Flowers* has three twist endings (at least). How does the book set them up in retrospect, once you know what they are?
- 5. Would you say Jamie or Zack is the antagonist of the story, or are they anti-heroes? Is Hank the only true "villain?"
- 6. There are more than a few pop culture tropes and references sprinkled throughout the novel, including several involving fairy tales and superheroes. How does the novel "riff" on these archetypes?
- 7. What do you think happens to Alex later in life, as he grows up watching all these characters interact?
- 8. In some key ways, the platonic love story between Zack and Josh is as essential to the story as its romantic



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## **Book Information**

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## **Discussion Questions for Darts and Flowers**

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couplings. How do we see this?

- 9. What do you think happens during one of Zack and Jamie's multiple future breakups? Would the other characters conspire to reunite them?
- 10. The story is structured like an hourglass, or two triangles joined at the bottom and top points: it starts off seemingly as Zack, Josh, and Jamie's story/master plot, and then slowly shifts midway through to become Brian, Missy, and Chantel's story. Where do you think this key shifting point is?

## Did you enjoy Darts and Flowers?

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