



***Nobody's Cuter Than You* Discussion Guide**

by Melanie Shankle

1. This book is a memoir about Melanie's friendship with her best friend, Gulley. Do you have a friend you'd consider your "Gulley"?
2. In chapter 1, Melanie says it seems like there should be some jolt of electricity that lets us know we've met someone important. Have you ever met someone and felt sure they were going to be a big part of your life? Were you right?
3. In the early chapters of this book, Melanie tells stories about friendships she had earlier in life and how they shaped her views of friendship. Which of your friendships have shaped the kind of friend you are and what qualities you look for in a friend?
4. What qualities do you believe are most important in a friend?
5. In chapter 4, Melanie describes the first time she was really hurt by someone she thought was a dear friend and how it changed her. Have you had friendships that hurt you in some way and made you more careful about who you choose to let into your life?
6. In chapter 8, Melanie talks about when her friend Jen lost her dad while they were in college and how that experience taught her the importance of showing up. When was a time you showed up for a friend or had someone show up for you?
7. When Melanie tells about her engagement in chapter 9, she shares that Gulley risked their friendship to speak the truth to her. How important do you think honesty is in a friendship? Is it possible to speak truth in love? How do you think that happens?
8. In chapter 10, Melanie turns her life back to God after getting a glimpse of how much he loves her. Have you ever felt like God couldn't possibly want you? Did something happen to cause you to see things differently?
9. Have you ever had to leave the comfort of a group of friends because of a move or graduation or some other life event? Did you manage to stay in touch with those friends? Did the friendship survive in spite of the distance?
10. In chapters 13 and 14, Gulley and Melanie both get married and start having babies. How do you think marriage and children can change a friendship? In your experience, have new life experiences brought you closer to certain friends, or have they created more distance? Is there someone in your life you can be honest with about the less-than-glamorous aspects of marriage and motherhood?
11. Gulley and Melanie have a tradition of taking one weekend in December to buy and wrap all their Christmas gifts. Do you and your friends have any longstanding traditions?
12. In chapter 18, we read about Jen's breast cancer diagnosis. Have you dealt with a friend's difficult

diagnosis or other tough situations, like a sick child or a death? What were some tangible things you did to help out?

13. Who in your life has taught you about being a good friend? Your mom? Your grandmother? Someone else?

14. What's the best piece of advice you've ever received about being a friend?

15. Melanie says that sometimes friend isn't a strong enough word, because "depending on the day, you are each other's mother, sister, friend, nurse, decorator, cheerleader, stylist, or therapist." Which of these roles do you feel most confident in? Is there one that's most important to you to have in a friend?

16. The appendix contains a list of phrases and words that have become part of Gulley and Melanie's everyday interactions. Do you and your friends have any words or phrases that are personal to you?

17. What are your thoughts on real-life friends versus social media friends? Is there a difference in what you share? Does social media dilute friendship?

18. This book is a memoir, so there are lots of Melanie's favorite stories about friendship. Do you have a story about a time that defined a friendship for you?

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