



The Measure

Nikki Erlick

A quietly profound novel about what happens when every adult receives a string revealing the length of their life, and how ordinary people choose to live in its shadow.

Reading level: Easy

Best for: a club that loves heartfelt stories that linger after the last page

Discussion

WARM-UP

1. Settle in with your blanket and tea. What was the moment in this book where you felt most cozy, comforted, or quietly moved?
2. Before opening your string, would you peek? Be honest. What does your gut say, and what does your heart say?

DIGGING IN

1. Whose storyline wrapped itself around your heart the most, and what about them felt familiar or dear to you?
2. The book lingers on small, everyday tenderness (a shared meal, a hand held, a letter written). What small moments in your own life have felt unexpectedly precious?
3. How did reading this change the way you noticed the people you love this week? Any phone calls made, hugs given, or messages sent?
4. The story explores how communities respond to uncertainty together. When has a community or group of friends been a source of comfort for you during something hard?

GOING DEEP

1. Without giving anything away, was there a character whose journey gave you a sense of peace by the end? What did they teach you about living well?
2. If you had a quiet evening to write a letter to someone you love, the way characters in this book grapple with what to say, who would you write to, and what feeling would you want them to hold onto?

On the table

🍽️ **Slow-simmered tomato soup with grilled cheese triangles**
Pure comfort, the kind of meal you make when you want to feel held. Fits the book's tenderness toward everyday life.

🍷 **Warm rosemary focaccia with olive oil for dipping**
Nods to Nina and Maura's shared moments and the Italian warmth threaded through the story. Easy to tear and share around the couch.

🍰 **Apple cinnamon crumble with vanilla ice cream**
A nostalgic dessert that feels like a gentle hug. Perfect for a book about savoring time.

To sip

🍯 **Honey chamomile tea with lemon (no alcohol)**
Soothing, slow-sipping, and just right for heart-to-heart conversation.

🍷 **Mulled red wine with orange peel and cloves**
Warm, spiced, and a little indulgent for a reflective night in.

🍷 **Spiked or unspiked hot apple cider**
Set out a pot with optional bourbon on the side so everyone can choose their own coziness level.

Run of show

7:00	Soft arrivals Door unlocked, candles lit, playlist humming. Greet everyone with a warm mug as they come in.
7:15	Settle and snack Gather around the soup and bread. Let people graze and chat freely while everyone arrives.
7:35	Warm-up questions Move to the cozy seats with blankets. Start with the two warm-up prompts to ease in.
7:55	Heart of the conversation Work through the theme questions slowly. No need to cover them all, follow the energy of the group.
8:40	Dessert and deeper reflection Bring out the crumble and pour fresh tea. Move into the two deeper questions while everyone is sweetened up.
9:10	Trivia, scorecards, and goodbyes Light trivia round, fill out scorecards together, hand out bookmarks, and send everyone home with leftovers.

HOST TIPS

- Keep the lighting low and layered (lamps, candles, fairy lights). It signals that this is a slow, gentle evening.
- Have extra blankets and thick socks in a basket by the door. People sink into the conversation when they're physically comfortable.
- Let silences breathe. This book stirs up big feelings, and a pause often invites the most honest sharing.

Playlist

soft, wistful folk and acoustic warmth for candlelight conversation

01 The Night We Met - Lord Huron

03 Saturn - Sleeping At Last

05 First Day of My Life - Bright Eyes

07 Vincent - Don McLean

02 Landslide - Fleetwood Mac

04 Holocene - Bon Iver

06 To Build a Home - The Cinematic Orchestra

08 Wildflowers - Tom Petty

Trivia

1. Who is the author of *The Measure*? (Nikki Erlick)
2. In what year was *The Measure* first published? (2022)
3. What object does every adult around the world receive at the start of the story? (A small wooden box containing a string)
4. What does the length of the string inside each box represent? (The length of the recipient's remaining life)
5. *The Measure* was selected as a pick for which major celebrity-led book club in 2022? (The Today Show / Read with Jenna book club)
6. What genre best describes *The Measure*? (Speculative or upmarket literary fiction)
7. The novel follows how many central interconnected characters whose lives intersect? (Eight)
8. Is *The Measure* Nikki Erlick's debut novel? (Yes)

Rate the book

Coziness factor ☆☆☆☆☆

Emotional warmth ☆☆☆☆☆

Characters you'd hug ☆☆☆☆☆

Made me call someone ☆☆☆☆☆

Reread by the fireplace? ☆☆☆☆☆

One feeling this book left me with: _____

A person I thought about while reading: _____

A small thing I want to savor more often: _____

YOU'RE INVITED

An Evening of Soup, Strings, and Soft Conversation

Come curl up for a cozy night discussing *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick. Bring your slippers and an open heart. Blankets, mugs, and crumble provided.



Plan your own book club night

Scan the code or visit bookclubnight.com

Made with Book Club Night