

## Discussion Guide: *Somebody Told Me*

1. Why does Aleks/Alexis want to move in with their uncle and aunt, and why do they decide to present only as female while living there?
2. What does the voice in Aleks/Alexis's head represent? How does the voice change by the end of the novel?
3. How is the main character different when she is Alexis than when he is Aleks? In what ways can you tell that Aleks/Alexis is still the same person at their core, whichever gender they are?
4. Aleks/Alexis believes they are doing a good deed by eavesdropping on confessions and trying to help them. How does their alter-ego of "Raziel" represent both their most positive and their most negative impulses?
5. From Lee's emails, what can you guess about his relationship with Aleks/Alexis? What signs of manipulative and controlling behavior does he show?
6. How does Sister Bernadette reconcile her personal values with her devotion to the Catholic church? What do you think of her rationale?
7. Why does Aleks/Alexis panic at the convention they attend with Dima? How does their reaction affect Dima?
8. What makes Uncle Bryan complicit in the child abuse happening in his parish?
9. Why is Aleks/Alexis so quick to believe that Deacon Jameson is the sexual predator whose confession they overheard? Why does Deacon Jameson feel guilty about their relationship? What are the key differences between Deacon Jameson's relationship with Dima and Monsignor Kline's abuse of Michael?
10. What counterpoints does Sister Bernadette provide to Aleks/Alexis's internalized feelings of shame and inadequacy?
11. Why did Monsignor Kline get away with his abuse for so long? Why was Deacon Jameson not able to do more to stop him?
12. At the end of the novel, how has Aleks/Alexis come to terms with their different genders and the different sides of their personality? In what ways are they beginning to heal from the traumas they experienced?