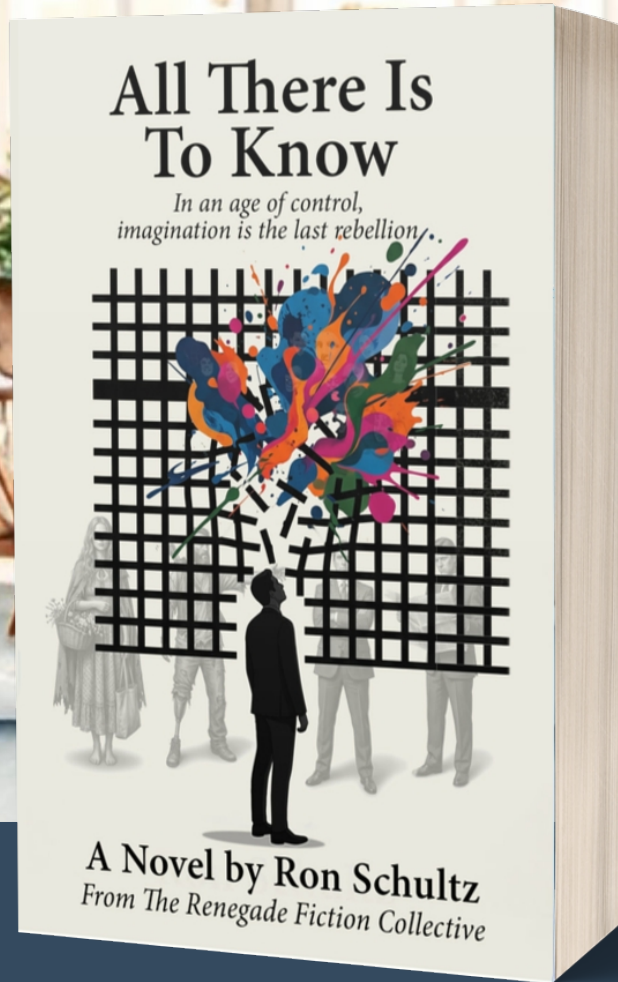




BOOK CLUB
RESOURCE GUIDE

Literary Political
Fiction

A watercolor illustration of a cozy living room. On the left is a tall wooden bookshelf filled with books. In the center, a wooden chair stands next to a small table with a plant. To the right is a light-colored sofa. Another bookshelf is on the far right. The background is a soft, warm wash of colors.

THANK YOU FOR
CONSIDERING All There Is
To Know FOR YOUR NEXT
BOOK CLUB READ

BOOK CLUB
RESOURCE GUIDE

Ron Schultz

Jake Elliot has been asking the same question his whole life: *Are you here God?* He asked it as a boy in the back of a station wagon, as a teenager crouched behind a parking-lot Cadillac, and as a stoned twenty-year-old art student certain the universe owed him an answer. Mostly, he gets silence. Once — just once — he gets an answer he can't explain away. From psychedelic weekends in Big Sur to a doomed romance with a congressman's son, from the woman he loves but can't hold onto, to an office in the Rayburn Building he never expected to occupy, Jake spends thirty years chasing the same impossible question through art, sex, faith, and finally, power. *All There Is to Know* is a wildly funny, deeply human novel about what happens when the search for God turns out to be a search for yourself — and about the strange, mercurial presence that keeps showing up right when you've stopped looking.

WORD COUNT: 97,480

PAGE COUNT: 318

KEY WORDS: Spiritual searching, Counterculture, Political satire, Artistic awakening, Irreverent faith

DEMOGRAPHICS: Readers of literary and philosophical fiction who like their existential questions served with humor, sex, and satire rather than solemnity

COMP BOOKS: Even Cowgirls Get the Blues by Tom Robbins, A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving

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Setting the mood

- Keep lighting warm and low
- string lights
- Candles in mismatched glass jars
- One corner styled like an art studio with an easel, paint tubes, and a half-finished canvas as a centerpiece.
- Set out small notepads and golf pencils at each place setting (a direct nod to Jake's own notebook of "Questions for God")

Fun, easy props

- A "Questions for God" mailbox or jar guests can drop cards into all night
- Vintage rotary phone
- A small stack of old paperback philosophy books as table décor
- Single spiral notepad "prize" for best question of the night.

Clothing suggestions

- Loose, earthy '70s bohemian for the first half of the evening
- Flowing fabrics, denim, love beads, aviators
- Optional "Congressman" blazer or power tie guests can throw on partway through the party to mark the shift from seeker to statesman.

Music

- Play Spotify playlist

THEMED ACTIVITIES: An Evening of Seeking

Fun Games

Questions for God

Guests write one genuine, ridiculous, or profound question they'd ask the universe on an index card. Host reads them aloud anonymously and the group guesses who wrote which.

The Delores Spill

A silly reflex game: whoever spills first (a drop of wine, a dropped napkin, a laugh mid-sip) has to answer a truth-or-dare style question from a jar.

Two Truths and a Sign

Each guest shares two ordinary coincidences from their life and one they genuinely can't explain; the group votes on which is the "sign."

THEMED ACTIVITIES: An Evening of Seeking

Deviled Eggs, "Temple Reception" Style

Serves 8

- 8 large eggs
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp white vinegar
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Smoked paprika, for garnish 1

Hard-boil the eggs, cool, peel, and halve lengthwise. Scoop yolks into a bowl and mash with mayonnaise, mustard, vinegar, salt, and pepper until smooth. Pipe or spoon the filling back into the whites and dust with smoked paprika.

Big Sur Fig and Goat Cheese Crostini

Serves 1

- 1 baguette, sliced into 1/2-inch rounds
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 8 oz soft goat cheese
- 1/2 cup fig jam
- 1/4 cup toasted walnuts, chopped
- Fresh thyme, for garnish

Brush baguette slices with olive oil and toast at 400°F for 6–8 minutes until golden. Spread each with goat cheese, top with a small spoonful of fig jam, a few toasted walnuts, and a pinch of fresh thyme.

THEMED MENU- The Coupe de Ville Spread

"Congressman's Table" Herb-Roasted Chicken

Serves 6–8

- 1 whole chicken (about 4–5 lbs)
- 3 tbsp softened butter
- 2 tbsp fresh rosemary, chopped
- 2 tbsp fresh thyme, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 lemon, halved
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 lb baby potatoes, halved

Preheat oven to 425°F. Mix butter, herbs, garlic, salt, and pepper; rub under and over the chicken skin. Stuff the cavity with the lemon halves. Arrange potatoes around the chicken in a roasting pan. Roast for 75–90 minutes, until the internal temperature reaches 165°F, basting once halfway through.

Rustic Green Salad with Champagne Vinaigrette

Serves 8

- 8 cups mixed greens
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced radish
- 1/4 cup crumbled feta
- 3 tbsp champagne vinegar
- 1 tsp honey
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

Whisk vinegar, honey, and mustard, then slowly whisk in olive oil until emulsified. Toss with greens, radish, and feta just before serving.

THEMED MENU-The Coupe de Ville Spread



The Uh-Huh

A riff on a classic Old Fashioned, built for the moment Jake finally gets an answer.

Ingredients

- 2 oz bourbon
- 1/4 oz amaretto (a nod to Jake's California haze)
- 2 dashes orange bitters
- 1 tsp brown sugar syrup
- Orange peel, for garnish
- 1 brandied cherry, for garnish

Instructions:

Combine bourbon, amaretto, bitters, and brown sugar syrup in a mixing glass with ice. Stir for about 30 seconds until well-chilled. Strain over one large ice cube in a rocks glass. Express the oils from an orange peel over the top, drop it in, and finish with a brandied cherry. Serve while asking your own question of the universe — silence optional.

SIGNATURE DRINK

Wish You Were Here By, Pink Floyd
The Sound of Silence By, Simon & Garfunkel
Spirit in the Sky By, Norman Greenbaum
Both Sides Now By, Joni Mitchell
Fire and Rain By, James Taylor
Ripple By, Grateful Dead
A Case of You By, Joni Mitchell
Wild Horses By, The Rolling Stones
Heart of Gold By, Neil Young
Into the Mystic By, Van Morrison
Landslide By, Fleetwood Mac
Blackbird By, The Beatles
Solsbury Hill By, Peter Gabriel
Comfortably Numb By, Pink Floyd
Hallelujah By, Leonard Cohen



SPOTIFY MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

A soft, watercolor-style illustration of a living room. On the left is a tall wooden bookshelf filled with books. In the center background is a fireplace with a mantel. To the right is another wooden bookshelf, also filled with books. In the foreground, there is a light-colored, plush sofa and a wooden chair. The overall atmosphere is warm and inviting.

THIS GUIDE CONTAINS POSSIBLE
SPOILERS FOR THIS BOOK IN
THE DISCUSSION SECTION.

WARNING

- Jake spends the entire novel asking, "Are you here?" What do you think he's really asking — and does he ever actually get an answer, or just the illusion of one?
- The novel treats faith, sex, art, and politics as almost interchangeable arenas for the same search. Do you think the book argues that they're all the same impulse, or does it separate them by the end?
- Hermes appears throughout the novel as an ambiguous, almost mythic figure. Who — or what — do you think Hermes represents? Did your read on him change by the final scene in the Capitol rotunda?
- Jake's relationship with his father, and Richard's relationship with Congressman Holland, mirror each other in complicated ways. What does the novel seem to be saying about fathers, sons, and inherited expectations?
- Garlyn tells Jake, "belief, faith, whatever you want to call it, isn't something from the outside... it's all your own internal control at work." Do you agree with her? How does this line reframe everything that came before it?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Jake moves from art school dropout to sitting Congressman almost without realizing it's happening. Do you see this as growth, drift, or something else entirely?
- The novel is frank and often comic about sex, drugs, and the counterculture of the era. How did that tone shape your read of Jake's spiritual search — did it undercut it, deepen it, or both?
- "The Delores Spill" becomes a kind of private mythology for Jake and Richard. Why do you think small, ordinary accidents keep taking on this kind of cosmic weight in the novel?
- By the end, Jake is a Congressman standing in the Capitol rotunda, laughing at a fresco of Mercury. What do you make of that final image as the note the novel chooses to end on?
- If you were Jake, and you were only allowed to ask one question — of God, the universe, or "Something Other" — what would it be?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Ron Schultz is an award-winning author, editor, and social innovation leader with 30 published books spanning entrepreneurship, complexity science, meditation, and social change. His works include *Creating Good Work*, *The Complex Buddhist*, *Open Boundaries*, and *Unconventional Wisdom*. He also co-writes two thriller series with Sarah Lovett, beginning with *Metal Viper*, and has written hundreds of nationally published articles. Ron's television and film career includes credits on *He-Man* and the *Masters of the Universe*, *ZORRO*, the CBS *Movie of the Week The Switch*, and the cult classic *NightRaiders*. He has spoken at major global forums and universities including Oxford, MIT, UCLA, and Trinity College Dublin. His archives were recently accepted by California State University, Northridge.

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