



# Pale Hearts

## BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION GUIDE

### ▶ about the book

What happens when a safety app isn't enough to protect a child? Is there really such a thing as a grechtzoar? What is the true nature of happiness? These questions and more are answered in the pages of breakout author Emily Eckart's short story collection. Critics have called *Pale Hearts* "a beautiful and modern collection of short stories," a "thought-provoking" book that provides "both literature and entertainment."

### ▶ discussion questions

- 1) Of the fifteen stories in *Pale Hearts*, which was your favorite, and why?
- 2) Some characters in *Pale Hearts* engage in morally dubious and even criminal activities. What are their motivations? Are they justified?
- 3) How do modern technologies affect the characters' lives and perceptions? Are there parallels in your own life?
- 4) *Pale Hearts* has been noted for its striking use of imagery, especially of the human body. How do images of the body reflect the characters' inner states?
- 5) How do the stories relate to one another, thematically or otherwise?

### ▶ about the author

Emily Eckart's writing has been published in *The Washington Post*, *Nature*, *Potomac Review*, and elsewhere. She was a 2016 Artist in Residence at New York Mills Regional Cultural Center. She studied music, literature, and sustainability at Harvard University. Visit her online at [www.emilyeckart.com](http://www.emilyeckart.com).

