Book Club Discussion QUESTIONS FOR – *This Is Now*

1. When the story opens the main character gets a call from her sister that her mother has a terminal illness. Aside from being in medical school, why do you think Margarita reluctant to return home?

2. Julia writes about a dysfunctional family. How accurate do you think the portrayal is to actual families? Does it resonate with you?

3. The story is about a daughter who returns home to care for her dying mother. What other themes did you find in the story?

4. It’s obvious that Margarita and the hero, Ray have feelings for each other, but they’ve both been hurt by the actions of the other. Do you believe in second chances? How difficult do you think it is to have a relationship with someone you once loved and lost?

5. In many ways Margarita seems to be the one this family counts on to get them through the possible loss of their mother/wife. But Margarita can barely take care of herself. Why do you think the author chose such a flawed character to be the healer?

6. What do you think about the relationship dynamics between the two sisters? How are Margarita and Jessica different? Is it common for two sisters to be so different?

7. How does the setting of an old California town that used to be surrounded by orange groves add to this story?

8. There are different types of healers in the book. Margarita is a medical student, her mother, Grace is a pediatrician, the great grandmother was a curandera. What else do these characters have in common? What is the author telling us about healers?