

- At the beginning of the novel, Renata wants to uncover the identity of Rosie's sperm donor. Do you think she has a moral right to this information even though she signed away her legal right seventeen years earlier? Do you think knowing one's biological roots is essential to being truly happy?
- Throughout the book, the relative influence of nature vs. nurture is debated. Which element is more powerful? Can you identify some of Hank's traits in his donor children?
- Initially, Rosie has no interest in discovering her father's identity. Do you think she might feel differently if Renata weren't so insistent on uncovering the information?
- Fina believes that the marketing tactics of Heritage Cryobank prey on the hopes of expectant parents. Do you agree?
- Later in the book, Ellen Alberti comments that potential parents seeking sperm donations are much choosier than parents who procreate with a known partner. Do you think this is true?
- When Fina learns that Rand wants to return to Boston, she is vehemently opposed and ultimately does something possibly illegal and unethical to stop his return. Was she justified in the action she took? Why doesn't the rest of the Ludlow family do more to help her?
- In the course of the novel, Risa's biological aunt, Greta, tracks her down, and Fina eventually discovers that Greta wants one of Risa's kidneys. Do you think Risa is obligated to help Greta because they're blood relatives?
- Imagine you were the product of sperm donation: would you be interested in learning the identity of your biological father? That you have half-siblings?
- Renata and Marnie have very different approaches when it comes to childrearing. Renata is very controlling, and Marnie is more hands-off. Do their approaches bear a relation to being single parents by choice?
- What do you think of the competition/tension between Juliana Reardon and Danielle Reardon? Do you think it's possible for first and second wives to get along? Do you think Danielle is trying to usurp Julianna's position in Boston society?

- Consider the notion of parentage: What makes someone a parent? The biological materials? The personal interaction? How much of Fina's personality would be the same had she been raised by different parents?
- Both Cristian and Milloy are strong presences in Fina's life. Do you think one or the other is a better influence on her? Do you think she should try and pursue a serious relationship with either one?
- There are multiple sets of siblings in the book: Fina and her brothers; Rosie and Alexa; Jess and Tyler; Rosie, Jess and Tyler; and even Haley and her young cousins. Do these relationships share any elements? Can friendships, like Fina's with Risa, Milloy and Cristian, be comparable to sibling relationships?