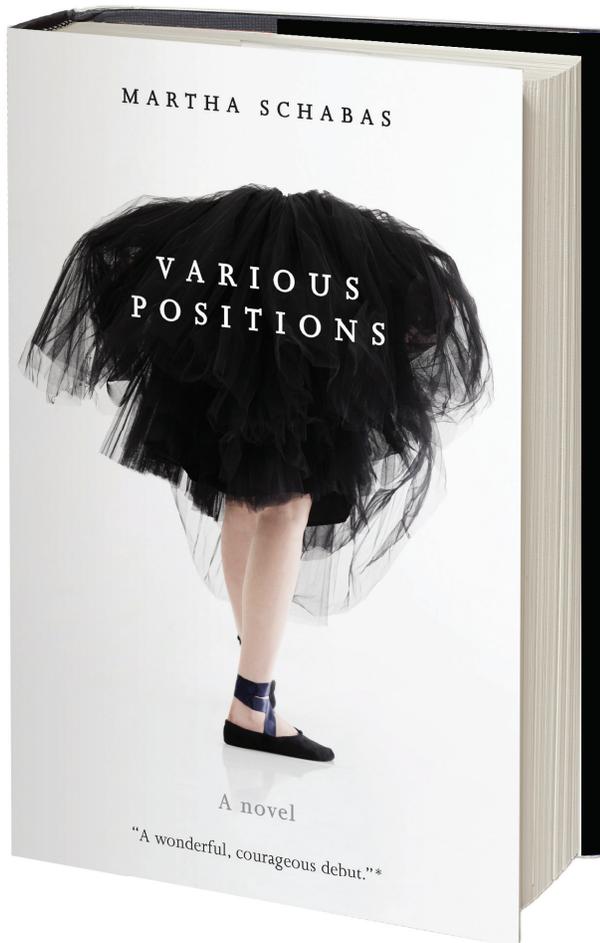




DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



VARIOUS POSITIONS

By Martha Schabas

For ages 14 and up

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. "Ballet is about beauty. Is there something wrong with that? Is there something demeaning about that (p. 200)?" Roderick says this to Georgia when they are talking about Chantal's eating disorder. What do you think about his statement and questions? A successful ballerina's body must look a certain way. Do you think that's a problem, or is looking a particular way important to many professions that involve performance?
2. Do you think Roderick did anything, either consciously or subconsciously, to encourage Georgia's feelings for him?
3. How do you think Georgia's parents' relationship impacted her feelings for Roderick?
4. At the start of the book, Georgia has a negative view of girls who are interested in boys. But she soon becomes one of those girls as her feelings for Roderick develops. What do you think causes her to change?
5. Georgia goes online to find out more about how to be sexually attractive to a man. Do you think looking at images like the ones Georgia views online is a part of healthy sexual exploration, or do you think it normalizes behavior that could be damaging to teens?
6. Georgia doesn't seem to take any responsibility for Chantal's eating disorder. Do you think she should have? Do you think she was partially to blame for what happened to Chantal? Why, or why not?
7. Do you think Isabel and Pilar overreacted to Georgia's relationship with Roderick?
8. Was Roderick right to resign?
9. At the end, Georgia says, "I fixed things, told everyone the truth. And the truth I told was even better than the real one, edited of all its gray zones and uncertainties" (320). Did Georgia really fix things? What does it mean that her truth was better than the real one?