



Discussion Questions

1. “Any mother who says that she has never felt like her whole life was being sucked out through her nostrils is a damn liar.” Why do so many women lie about their negative experiences of motherhood?
2. Felicia suggests that Preston holds on to her too closely, that she gives him a long leash to come and go as he pleases, but her leash is short and tight. Is this justified? What does this reveal about their relationship?
3. Being a member of the Dames is very important to Felicia as is re-booting her acting career. Why do you think the author gave Felicia these aspirations outside of her already loaded responsibilities as a mother and wife?
4. Many of Felicia’s choices are about building and protecting the ‘safe’ family she has always wanted. What does Felicia’s story tell us about the false promise of ‘safe’ choices?
5. When Felicia decides to give Shayla the deed to her house, it’s because they are “two sides of the same coin.” What does she mean by that? Should she have helped Shayla or turned her back?
6. What do you think about Gran and Felicia’s relationship? How did their bond affect Crystal?
7. Is Preston perhaps more wedded to the idea of family perfection than Felicia?
8. Martin had a lot of influence over Felicia. How do you think we mythologize our first loves and what does that mean for our future relationships?
9. Martin says, “I believe in life we are always exactly where we’re supposed to be.” Do you think Felicia comes to believe that as well?
10. Felicia is a relatable character. What did you think of the choices that she made throughout the story? What do you think she could have done differently?

