



1. When did you first start to suspect that Marnie wouldn't make it to Livia's party? When did you first guess why not?
2. Intergenerational relationships play a large role in this novel. Mothers and fathers, sons and daughters. Which relationships most closely mirror one another? How does Marnie's relationship with Rob upend not only these close relationships, but the generational divide that's necessarily a part of them?
3. Despite Marnie's final fate—and the statue her father planned to carve for her—*The Dilemma* makes it clear that she was no angel. Does her affair change the way you see her? How does it complicate the narrative?
4. Throughout *The Dilemma*, there are multiple instances of two people having a conversation, or overhearing one, in which they believe they're on the same page, but in reality are talking about entirely different things. How does the idea of communication—and miscommunication—play into the themes of the novel as a whole?
5. In the first pages, Livia says, "Once she's back, everything will change and we'll no longer be able to live the lovely life we've been living," and there's an echo of that statement near the end: "I wanted to be able to carry on living the life I was living." This must be a devastating thought for Livia to look back on. How did reading it affect you? Do you agree with Livia's guilt in this moment, for thinking that in the first place?
6. In the end, the secret about Rob and Marnie's affair remains hidden from almost everyone. What does the revelation of one of the novel's huge secrets and the subsequent continued confidentiality of the affair say about the nature of secrets? Do you think the choice they made is ultimately more helpful or more hurtful?
7. Can you understand the choice Adam made? Do you agree with Livia's decision to forgive him? Put yourself in their shoes. Would you have made the same choice as Adam? Could you have forgiven a loved one for making that same choice?

Discussion Questions



8. In Adam's chapter that runs from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., he is preparing to tell Livia what has happened to Marnie when he thinks instead, "these might be her last few moments of happiness." Ultimately, do you think the choice Adam made to keep this secret was brave or selfish?
9. If you've read B. A. Paris's other novels, you'll note that *The Dilemma* is a departure from her usual genre, psychological thrillers. How did you find this novel different from her previous books? In what ways is it similar?