



1. Sometimes there is a gap between who we are and who we want to be. How is this reflected in the novel? Marthe and April are the book's main characters but does it sometimes feel as though there are four characters between these two women? Do you have this disparity in your own life?
2. April views herself as rather plain: "Straight, dark, and tailored, made entirely of clean lines. The hair, the eyes, the nose: all casually assembled; unobjectionable basic pieces." Later, April's stepdaughter calls her tastes "a bit utilitarian." Why, then, is she attracted to the gilt and glamour of the apartment as well as in Marthe's life? How would Marthe describe herself in modern terms?
3. What role does the city of Paris play in the novel? April mentions a large auction she once worked on in Texas. How would this story have been different if set in the United States? What about London? Or somewhere else in Europe?
4. What does April find appealing about Luc? Is she attracted to him much earlier than she lets on? What do you like about their friendship? What don't you like?
5. April admits early in the novel she doesn't want children. Later her reasons come to surface. Do you understand her point of view? Are there maybe other reasons that she's unable to admit, even to herself?
6. April's husband Troy makes at least one large mistake. What mistakes does April make, large or small? Are you able to empathize with Troy? Do you think he understands the things April doesn't tell him?

Discussion Questions



St. Martin's
Griffin

7. The novel alternates between two time periods, Belle Époque and modern-day Paris. Did you prefer one particular story line over the other? Why?
8. The author uses many historical events and figures interwoven into the fictional storylines. Is there any real-life tidbit from the novel that surprised you?
9. How do you feel about the “four-to-five”? Is cheating less salacious if everyone’s agreed to it?
10. What are your thoughts on the ending? Does April end up with the person you thought she would? Is she in the city you expected? Would you have preferred a different conclusion?
11. How will April’s life look a year from the end of *A Paris Apartment*?
12. Which actors would you cast in the roles of April, Marthe, Luc, and Troy? What about Boldini? Montesquiou?
13. The objects people collect or choose to surround themselves with often give clues to their personality. Did anything in the apartment define Marthe’s personality for you? Were your assumptions correct? Are there things in your home that define you and if so how?