

READING GROUP GUIDE

Questions and Topics for Discussion

1. Protecting children is at the heart of Maria's story. What portraits of motherhood emerge throughout her journey?
2. Re-read the book's epigraph by the French theologian Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. How would communities change if humans saw themselves as spiritual beings?
3. In the novel's opening scenes, we watch Maria struggle to manage a harried life, yet she rejects Will's suggestions that she work less or hire someone to help around the house, even though they could afford it. Have you ever found yourself in a similar state? How did you manage it? How does Maria's perception of time evolve over the course of the novel?
4. Imagine that you woke up as your 17-year-old self. What would be the best and worst thing about returning to those days?
5. What were your initial theories about Rachel? Which aspects of the truth surprised you the most?
6. In her session with Maria in chapter two, Sylvia reflects on her guilt and says, "It's important to always do the right thing, even if you have to suffer the consequences." What does *She Wouldn't Change a Thing* ultimately say about destiny versus decision making, and the process of discerning our purpose?
7. Compare Maria and Will's relationship to Jenny and Hank's. What do the novel's partnerships show us about love, sacrifice, and true compatibility?



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8. What is the effect of the fact that Maria was a teenager in the 1980s? What are the limitations and the benefits of the pre-digital age?
9. What's your interpretation of the novel's title?
10. In chapter 31, Maria considers all of her options, without any guarantees that she can relive her previous life. Her fourth option is to save Beth but lose her family. What would you have chosen? If you knew you could revisit a previous chapter in your family history and save someone's life, whose life would you want to save? What price would you be willing to pay in order to save them?
11. As you read the last paragraph of the epilogue, how did you react? What does that scene illustrate about the cycles of life across generations?
12. One of the challenges faced by the time-traveling characters is how to convince people to believe their warnings. How would you have responded to predictions from someone like Sylvia? Do you believe in guardian angels or premonitions?