



1. How does Liza and Molly's friendship differ from that of Liza and Max? How do these different friendships represent and reflect Liza as a person?
2. Do you think Molly and Rick's friendship would have progressed to an affair had they continued on the path they were on? Or, by your definition of infidelity, were they already having one?
3. How is Molly's worsening pain a mirror of her relationships with Liza, with Daniel? Do you believe that all of her pain was real, or to some extent did it become a self-fulfilling prophecy?
4. What does Rosie and her reluctance to speak mean to Molly? Whom do you think Molly ultimately needs more: Rick or Rosie?
5. Put yourself in Liza's shoes. Would you have driven all night to Molly's after seeing the intruder? After being turned away so dismissively, would you have given Molly a chance to redeem herself, at any point?
6. Have you ever had a near-death experience or a close call, the way Liza did? How did you react afterward—and can you relate to the way it rattled her?
7. How do you feel about Henry's theory that truly bad things are the result of a series of missteps—nothing more, nothing less? Do you find it worrisome, or reassuring? Is there a difference between luck and fate?
8. At what point would you have told Daniel about the mounting debt? In your opinion, is Molly ultimately more untrustworthy than Daniel, or did she do the best she could?
9. Molly is drawn to the nature center when she needs to feel grounded. Do you have a place like that—and do you go there often enough? Do you prefer to go alone or to share the experience?
10. What is the most complicated relationship in the novel? Molly and Liza? Molly and Daniel? Liza and Max? Molly and Rick?

*Discussion  
Questions*



11. Why do you think Luke never liked Molly? How much attention should we pay to what our family thinks of the relationships we choose?
12. Molly accuses Daniel of “erod[ing] the empathy” from their marriage. Can a relationship really recover from the worst kinds of betrayals—negligence, infidelity, dishonesty? What is unforgivable in love?
13. What do you think Molly running the race means for her family and friendships in the future? For her sense of self?
14. Do you agree at all with Daniel’s justification for doing what he did? Even if you don’t, would you begrudgingly admit that it worked?
15. Where do you imagine the characters ten years from now? Are Molly and Daniel still married? Are Liza and Molly close? Does Liza still live in Cincinnati, or did she move on to another city?