



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

“First Comes Love” by Emily Giffin

1. Josie almost writes off her relationship with Pete because she doesn't feel enough of a spark, but he argues that chemistry can develop over time. Do you agree with him?
2. Daniel's death is a source of great guilt for many of the characters in this novel. Compare and contrast the different ways that guilt manifests itself in their choices. How do you think Meredith and Josie's lives might be different if Daniel were still alive?
3. Discuss the theme of motherhood in the novel. What does being a mother mean to Meredith, to Josie, and to Elaine?
4. Another prominent theme is the illusion of perfection, especially in our current Instagram/Facebook-filtered world. Discuss which characters in the book struggle the most with this phenomenon. How do Josie's and Meredith's assumptions about other people's lives affect how they live theirs?
5. What do you think it is that allows Josie to finally get over her feelings for Will, after holding on to them for so many years? Do you have a Will in your past?
6. Imagine for a moment that your best friend or sister tells you they are having a baby on their own, as Josie does in the book. How would you react? What would you say to her? What would you want to hear if you were the one making that decision?
7. Why do you think Meredith decides not to leave Nolan right away? Would you have made the same choice in her position? Do you view her as strong or cowardly?
8. Meredith struggles with the idea of taking time for herself, worrying that both her family and her career won't survive without her. Do you think this is a common fear for women today?
9. This novel doesn't end with a neat “happily ever after” – both Meredith and Josie make their decisions, but the reader doesn't know what the ultimate outcome for each will be. Why do you think the author chose to end the novel where she does?

The above questions were taken from Emily Giffin's website. Guide: First Comes Love.

<http://www.emilygiffin.com/guide-first-comes-love/>

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