



February 10-24, 2021

Discussion Guide

1. One of the many ways Meg and Reid are “opposite” is in their feelings about New York City. Do you think you’d react to New York more like Meg, or more like Reid, and why?
2. Meg tells Reid that knowing the signs in various parts of the city helped to “organize her experience.” Have you ever moved to a new place, and how did you orient yourself once you were there?
3. At the beginning of the book, Meg is experiencing a creative block. Did you think the way she described her struggles with her work was relatable? Why or why not?
4. Reid is an extremely reserved character when we first meet him. Did you find yourself being put off by his demeanor, or were you drawn to him initially? How does his character change (or not change) over the course of the novel?
5. What was your favorite walk through the city that Meg and Reid took together? Or perhaps, more specifically, what was your favorite game they played together?
6. Meg and Reid think of themselves and each other in terms of the tools of their respective trades—letters and numbers. Do you think of yourself as more of letters or numbers person, and why?
7. Meg and Reid have very different styles of communication. How would you describe their respective styles, and how do you think they eventually find a way to talk to each other?
8. Throughout the book, Meg is hurting from the distance she feels between her and her best friend, Sibby. Were you surprised when Sibby finally revealed her reason for pulling away from Meg? Did you empathize with her?
9. Do you still have friendships from your childhood and adolescence? How have those friendships changed and grown over time?



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10. One piece of advice Meg gets in this book (from her friend and colleague Lachelle) is that you have to practice fighting with the people you love in order to be able to stay with them. Do you consider yourself a conflict-averse person, like Meg is? Or do you feel comfortable hashing out issues you might have with others?
11. As we get to know Reid better, we learn that he's self-conscious about more than one thing. Why do you think it is important for Reid to so carefully hide his insecurities at the beginning of the book?
12. Meg and Reid clearly had very different family experiences growing up. How do you think meeting Reid's family changed Meg's opinion of both Reid and of herself?
13. What did you make of the relationship between Lark and Cameron?
14. Were you surprised to learn about the secret Reid had been keeping from Meg? Why or why not?
15. Reid's letter is the only time in the book we hear his direct perspective. Was his style of presenting his thoughts and feelings to Meg what you expected of his "voice"? Did you feel that he explained his actions to her adequately?
16. At the end of the book, we learn that Meg stood by Reid all through the most difficult parts of the trial that followed his whistleblowing, but we also learn that it wasn't easy. What do you think would be most difficult about supporting someone through a crisis like the one Reid is going through?