

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Balancing the demands of motherhood with career ambition is a challenge many women face when returning to work while their children are young, as Lucia does in the novel. Did that conflict resonate with you personally? Do you think it's truly possible to “do it all”?
2. Lucia wrestles with how to stay authentic in the face of judgment—whether it's her mother-in-law's passive-aggressive remarks or the pressure to straighten her hair for work. Where do you draw the line between “faking it till you make it” and just being yourself? Have you ever changed something about yourself, as a mom or a professional, to fit in? Was it worth it?
3. On the surface, Ollie is Lucia's cleft-chinned dream man—but what kind of husband is he, really? Were his expectations of Lucia ever hypocritical? Would you describe him as passive or active in his support of her choices, particularly around his family and friends?
4. Both Ollie and Lucia avoid conflict to protect their marriage. What do they risk by doing so?
5. As Lucia navigates the paradoxes of the philanthropy world, the novel raises a compelling question: What is the difference between meaning well and doing good? How do you view that distinction? And when it comes to the book's ultra-wealthy characters, did you find the author's portrayal more satirical or sympathetic?
6. Many characters in the novel reveal unexpected layers as the story unfolds. By the end of the book, how had your perception of Celeste and Melissa changed? And why? Did you relate to either of those characters in any way?
7. Lucia ultimately chooses to break company policy in pursuit of what she believes is right. Did you agree with her decision? When, if ever, is it necessary to bend the rules for a greater good?
8. Unlike Lucia, most of us could probably live without caramel Frappuccinos. But what food or drink from your hometown—or your family's table—would be impossible to leave behind, no matter where life took you?