



# Perfect Timing

## QUESTIONS AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. When Tom and Jess first meet at the Edinburgh Festival, their spark is immediately apparent as they spend the evening getting to know each other. Have you ever experienced an instant connection like that, where you thought about someone constantly even after just a brief meeting?
2. Unfortunately, things between Tom and Jess go awry quite quickly after Scott reveals to Jess that Tom has a “girlfriend.” Have you ever been in a position similar to Tom’s, where lying seemed like the easier thing to do only for the lie to derail something else? If so, what happened?
3. After hearing Tom’s song on the radio, Jess is determined to find Tom’s “girlfriend” and tell her the truth. In Jess’ position, would you have reacted similarly, or would you have brushed it off instead? Why or why not?
4. A miscommunication at the airport causes Tom and Jess to hit another bump in their relationship; have you ever experienced similar fallout from a miscommunication with a friend or partner? If so, were you able to resolve it?
5. After Jess’s stint in Australia, her style of comedy takes a very different turn. Even though she doesn’t really like what she’s doing, she feels compelled to keep going because it is what everyone expects of her. Have you ever felt compelled to fulfill others’ expectations the way Jess does? Do you understand why she kept it going for as long as she did, or do you think you would have stopped sooner?
6. Tom also struggles with expectations, though his struggle is more about the expectations he sets for himself. We see him fighting with his anxiety and with his concern for what others think of him. We also see him struggle with his need to be successful like his grandfather, but also fearful he’ll walk the same tragic path as him. Do you think Tom copes with his struggles in a healthy way? Why or why not? If not, what would you do to cope in a similar position?
7. Throughout the novel, the reason Tom and Jess can’t be together is because they are never in the same place in their lives, whether in their careers, other relationships, or their own personal struggles as they make their way through their twenties. Do you think it is important that both parties in a relationship are on the same page in such ways? Why or why not?
8. At the end of the book, Tom and Jess finally seem to have found the perfect timing. Do you think their individual experiences and personal growth during the novel will mean that they will have a better relationship than if they had gotten together that first night? Why or why not? What importance do you think timing plays in relationships?