

THE WEDDING NIGHT

QUESTIONS AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. As the novel opens, we see Effie and Anna reminiscing on how their friendships have changed since their university days, as they've all grown older and their lives have taken different paths. Have you ever had similar thoughts about old friendships? Were you able to maintain those friendships, or did they fall away?
2. One of the things Anna struggles with throughout the novel are her feelings about becoming a mother and how it has affected how she sees herself, her husband, her friends, and even her career. Have you ever found yourself in a similar position, where a dramatic change has affected how you view your life, and/or how others in your life view you?
3. Throughout the novel, we see Effie struggle to find a healthy way to cope with her recent breakup, even as her friends try to help as much as they can. Have you ever felt (or helped a friend) who was feeling similarly? What effect, if any, do you think societal pressures have on Effie's coping mechanisms?
4. Lizzie, too, is struggling with the dissolution of her relationship and calling off her wedding. What do you think of her friends' decision to take her mind off things by going to the chateau anyway? Do you think it would help or hurt?
5. As the novel progresses, we see Lizzie's ex continue to psychologically torment her, even though she's ended things. Why do you think that is? What do you think motivates her ex to treat her this way—is it embarrassment, pride, or something else altogether?
6. As secrets begin to come out, we learn what lengths Effie has gone to for Lizzie, and in turn, what lengths Lizzie has gone to for Effie. Would you do the same for a best friend? Why or why not?
7. At the beginning of the novel, Effie and Anna are quite intimidated by Iso and find it hard to warm up to her, but, despite not growing close with them, Iso stands up for Effie and Lizzie and is a key part of the novel's resolution. How did you feel as you watched the women band together and what do you make of the fact that society often pits women against each other instead of teaching them to band together?