

EMILY STONE
Love, Holly

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. At the beginning of the novel, we get a glimpse into Holly and Lily's sisterly relationship as they drive to meet their parents for the holidays. Do you have a similar relationship with any siblings or cousins you have? How would you feel if that relationship suddenly came to a halt?
2. Holly and Emma meet as the result of a "Dear Stranger" letter-writing club where the writers are encouraged to say what's on their mind during the holiday season. What do you think of the idea that talking to a stranger can sometimes be easier than talking to someone you know?
3. If you were in Emma's situation and Holly turned up at your front door, how would you have reacted? Would you have welcomed her, or would you have been taken aback, and why?
4. What did you think of Holly's decision to try and bring Emma back together with her grandson? How do you feel about the way she went about it?
5. What did you think of Jack's reaction when Holly told him about Emma? Could you sympathize with where he was coming from?
6. Throughout the novel, we see Holly focusing on repairing Jack and Emma's relationship, all while feeling unable to take significant steps to repair relationships with her own family. Why do you think that is?
7. Jack and Holly, although very different people, dealt with their grief in similar ways. What do you think that says about humanity (or grief) as a whole? Do you think some experiences are more universal than we might realize at the time we are going through them?
8. Similarly, we see that both Jack and Holly have to go on their own individual journeys before they can give each other the time and attention that they both deserve in a relationship. What do you think of their decisions to do so?
9. What did you think of the secret that Emma reveals at the end of the novel? Were you surprised? What do you think that says about her character?
10. Throughout the novel, we see Holly resisting the idea of fate, which her sister always pushed her to believe in more. How big a role do you think fate played in this story? How big a role do you think fate plays in real life?