

Discussion Questions

1. After Thibault finds the photo of a girl wearing a shirt that says “lucky lady” across the front, his best friend Victor convinces him that the photo is his lucky charm. Do you believe in lucky charms? Do you think the photo is Thibault’s lucky charm, or is his good luck just a coincidence?
2. Do you find it odd that Thibault walked across the country to find the girl in the photograph, a woman he knew next to nothing about? Why is Thibault so compelled to find this woman?
3. Thinking about how difficult marriage is, Beth remembers her grandmother saying: “Stick two different people with two different sets of expectations under one roof and it ain’t always going to be shrimp and grits on Easter.” Do you agree? Do you think marriage is worth the hardship that often accompanies it?
4. Compare the main male characters in the novel – Thibault, Clayton, and Drake. How are they different and how are they similar?
5. Thibault, we learn, was a soldier in the Iraq War, but when we meet him he looks and acts nothing like a soldier. How has the war affected Thibault and in what ways are his actions in this novel determined by his time spent in Iraq?
6. Victor seems to think that Thibault is in love with Beth even before he’s met her. Do you think it is true that Thibault fell in love with Beth before he ever met her?
7. Beth is somewhat guarded and she doesn’t allow herself to fall in love with Thibault easily. What, aside from her past romantic failures, makes her initially wary of Thibault?
8. What role does Nana play in bringing Thibault and Beth together?
9. Why doesn't Thibault reveal the truth about himself to Beth earlier? Do you think he acted dishonestly and do you think Beth is right to be upset when he finally tells her the truth? Should she have forgiven him?
10. Do you think Thibault and Beth are destined to be together? Do you believe in fate?
11. What do you make of Clayton? Do you dislike him? Do you understand why he behaves the way he does? Is he a good father to Ben? Does your opinion of him change by the end of the book?
12. What role does Zeus play in this story?
13. Describe Ben and Thibault’s relationship. How does Ben change as he and Thibault become closer?

14. Victor appears to Thibault in a vision and warns him that “there is more.” What is Victor referring to? At one point near the end of the novel Thibault realizes he was brought to Hampton for Clayton, not Beth. Do you agree? What does he mean by this?

15. The novel ends with Beth reflecting on loss – admitting that it’s complicated and that she and Ben have struggled with its counter effects. Is the novel’s ending happy or sad, in your opinion?