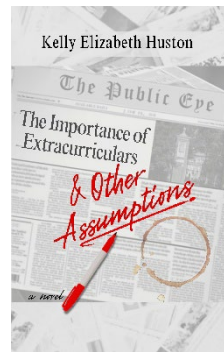


The Importance of Extracurriculars & Other Assumptions

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Book Club Discussion Starters



- Humor plays a big role in the book, even amid serious themes. How does the author use wit and irony to make tough topics—like class, career ethics, or family tension—feel relatable rather than heavy?
- Ethan is the world-traveling counterbalance to Amelia’s rooted lifestyle. What do you think attracts them to each other?
- The story touches on *income inequality* and *access to elite education*. How did Amelia’s background influence her decisions at Chastain University? Do you think her experiences made her more empathetic or more determined to preserve her hard-earned place in the system?
- Amelia allows herself *two fibs a day*—a rule meant to protect her from repeating past mistakes. Do you think her “fib rule” makes her more ethical or just more creative at lying? Where’s the line between self-protection and self-deception?
- Gender dynamics play a part of the story. Do you relate to the old boys’ club mentality in the workplace?
- If someone told you that the name Moses is an Anglican version of the Yiddish name Moishe and Pascha is the Greek word for Easter (as in a new life, new start) how would interpret the story’s ending? Consider some of the other characters’ names. Do any of them carry meaning?
- Mother-daughter relationships are hard, and these women are products of their environments. Do you empathize with either Amelia or Livia? Both? Do you forgive Nora for her hand in the scandal? Do her efforts to stay at Chastain to protect Amelia win her absolution?
- **Casting:** I don’t cast my characters, particularly the principal ones, but I love to hear what readers see when reading my words.