



Reading Group Guide

- Mina and Jill seem very different on the surface, but deep down they share a similar set of values. In what ways do we choose friends who are different or similar to us? What differences can we live with? What similarities can we not do without?
- In what way do illnesses impact our vision of ourselves, and our bodies? Who is impacted by this change in how we view ourselves?
- What kind of validation does Jill receive from Herschel? Can a stranger have a major impact? What contributes to people's insecurities about their intellect?
- How do the interactions at Bota Bota impact Mina's insecurity about her body?
- Is it okay for two moms to go out to a bar and mingle with men they've just met? Do Mina and Christoff cross the line? Are certain topics off limits? What is okay to discuss and what isn't? What constitutes flirting? Is flirting acceptable for married women/men?
- The girls interpret the waitress's attitude at L'express similarly to the way they interpret the attitude of the salesgirl at Simon's and Eugenia at the Ritz. Why might their perception be skewed?
- Why is Mina so offended by Phoenix? Is there something about being somewhere foreign that makes things that would be off limits at home, okay to do while away?
- In what way does Inez become a catalyst for the girls to insist on having their own needs met back home?
- Are Jill's feelings toward Aldo a threat to her marriage? Can old flames still serve a purpose? What are the boundaries? Does Allen cross any?
- Why do the girls like the Poutine better at the end of the book than when they first try it?