

1. Lucy and Owen make rules for their deal including “No sexting inside the house” and “No falling in love.” Did they leave anything out? If you and your partner were to participate, what would your rules be?
2. On p. 129, Lucy jokes that she would hate to be remembered as a woman who “somehow managed to scrape together enough money to raise her family in New York City.” How did the setting of Beekman change your reaction to the arrangement? How would Lucy and Owen’s experiment have been different in an urban environment?
3. Owen continues to sleep with Izzy despite numerous red flags. What did his choice in partner reveal about his character? In chapter fifteen, Owen begins sleeping with Madison who is significantly younger. Were you surprised or upset by this choice?
4. The Lowell’s have their fair share of scandals in Beekman. On page 101, Dunn describes Arlen Lowell’s philosophy in a nutshell, “If this is my biggest problem...” When Colleen comes out as transgender, Arlen stays by her side. After her accident, Kelly Allen vows to support the new Mrs. Lowell whatever it takes. How does the Lowell’s marriage compare to the other relationship Dunn writes about? Did it change your understanding of Lucy and Owen’s relationship? Kelly also suffers in her marriage with Gordon. How are her struggles different?
5. Later in the novel, Izzy reveals that she’s sick with cancer. Lucy thinks she’s lying. Did you initially believe Izzy? How did you react to this additional complication?
6. Throughout the arrangement, Owen seriously doubts that Lucy is sleeping with someone. Even once she starts sleeping with Ben, he doesn’t have a clue. Why do you think he is so confident? How does Lucy’s role as a mother and a woman contribute to his assumption?
7. In more ways than one, Wyatt’s autism is the reason Lucy and Owen stay together. The divorce rate among parents of children with autism is significantly higher than the national average. Is there something about Lucy and Owen’s parenting style that helps buck the trend? How might the experiment be different for parents of a neurotypical child?
8. At the beginning of each chapter, Dunn includes quotations from “Constance Waverly,” who addresses problems with modern marriage. How did her insight influence your experience of the story? Was there a particular piece of advice that resonated with you?
9. Dunn ended the novel with a letter from Izzy in which she reveals she’s been reading his emails. Do you think Izzy and Owen will keep in touch?
10. THE ARRANGEMENT begins with a discussion of Frank and Jim, a gay male couple who introduced the idea of an open marriage to Victoria and Thom. On page 9, Victoria says, “it’s a huge myth that women can’t have meaningless sex.” As sex positivity and feminism enter a new wave in the new millennium, do you think Victoria is correct? Is it a matter of personal preference? Discuss.