

Reading Group Guide

1. The epigraph of *The Lion's Den* reads, "The only known predators of lions are humans." What does this statement signify to you? Similarly, why might John's yacht be named after the home of the animal kingdom's apex predator?
2. When it becomes clear that Summer's mother and John will also be attending the "girls' trip," Wendy is disappointed. How is traveling with a group of women different from traveling with a family member or significant other? What are the pros and cons of each?
3. Several characters comment on money's ability to make people behave in irrational—and sometimes extreme—ways. Do you believe this to be true, even among well-intentioned people?
4. In the beginning of the book, Summer tells Belle that there are "different kinds of love." Aside from the obvious differences between romantic and familial love, do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why? What variants of love do you see characters exhibit in the novel? Does Summer really love John?
5. On Day 4, the girls are invited to have lunch with John, his polo-playing friends, and a handful of international businessmen. Frustrated, Belle wryly comments that the "womenfolk" aren't allowed to participate in the conversation. Why do you think John and his compatriots treat the girls so dismissively in this scene? How else do the novel's male characters underestimate their female counterparts—and at what point do they seriously regret it?
6. On Day 5, the girls attend an extravagant party on a nearby yacht. If you were vacationing overseas and found yourself at a party filled with the world's rich and famous, who would you hope to meet? What would your first question to this person be?
7. While at the yacht party on Day 5, Belle makes friends with Michael, who says "Money doesn't change people. It only magnifies the qualities that were already there." What are your thoughts on this? Have you ever witnessed money change someone you know or someone in the public eye? In *The Lion's Den* what accommodations do you see characters make when they interact with the extremely wealthy?

8. On the evening of Day 6, Summer shows her true colors on board the yacht. Were you surprised by Summer's sudden outburst of violence? What did you think of the other girls' reactions? How would you react to such a display?
9. On Day 7, Belle confronts Summer over what she's done, and Summer replies, "You still don't understand how the world works, do you? Everything has a price, and I can afford it." Do you agree? While extreme wealth can certainly open doors in terms of opportunity, do you believe wealth equates to authority? Why or why not?
10. Belle refers to Summer and Wendy as her best friends but often feels rejected by them. Why do you think they treat Belle the way they do? Why do you think Belle stays friends with them? Have you ever found yourself in a similar situation with a close female friend? How did you go about resolving this issue? In your opinion, what is the best way to approach emotionally fraught conversations?
11. At the end of the book, Belle has an opportunity to confront Summer but doesn't. Why? What does this tell you about Belle's character? How has she changed over the course of the book?
12. *The Lion's Den* is set in one of the most beautiful locations on earth. Knowing now what transpires over the course of the novel, how does the book's idyllic location enhance your experience of the story? How else does the author use beauty as a red herring?
13. There are a number of twists and turns in the plot. Which surprised you the most? What was your favorite part of the book?
14. Belle learns a lot about wealth over the course of the novel. What do you believe is her final takeaway?