

Room 706

Reading Group Questions

1. Do Kate and Vic have a good marriage? How do you feel about Vic as a husband? And Kate as a wife?
2. How does motherhood shape Kate's sense of self? How does it explore the ways in which parenthood can alter one's desires and identity?
3. How does Kate's grief over losing her mother, and then her best friend Eve, present itself throughout the novel? How have these tremendous losses shaped the woman she is when we meet her?
4. What motivates Kate to begin the affair? How is James different from Vic?
5. At the outset of the affair, Kate and James toast 'to not falling in love'. Do you think either of them do fall in love with each other? How does their relationship shift over the course of the affair?
6. When Kate realises the hotel is under siege, she wrestles with what to tell Vic. If you were in her shoes, what would you do?
7. Do you think Vic knows about Kate's infidelity? If she makes it out safely, do you think their marriage will survive?
8. The novel explores the idea that small choices can ripple outwards. Did any of these decisions strike you as especially significant, and why?
9. How does the confined space of the hotel room act as a metaphor for Kate's life? What does being trapped reveal about her, and about James?
10. Did you judge Kate for any of her decisions? And if so, did this stop you from feeling sympathy towards her? How does the novel challenge our instinct to condemn its characters?
11. How did you interpret the ending? What do you think happens after the book ends?
12. Did the book make you consider any aspects of your own life and relationships? What would you write in letters to loved ones if you were in Kate's situation?