

FORKS, KNIVES and SPOONS a novel

Discussion Questions

1. What traits do you see in Amy that represent young women today? What about Veronica? Jenny? Can you see yourself in any of the characters, either now or when you were their age?
2. What do you see as the main message of Forks, Knives, and Spoons?
3. Do you think men and women can be “just friends”? Why or why not? There are several instances in the book in which that line is crossed. Is there always an attraction on one end or the other? Name times in the story when Amy had a chance to see or notice Matt but she didn't. Why does it take Amy so long to recognize Matt as more than a friend when others around her see it?
4. What does Santa Claus symbolize throughout the story? Why is his message important?
5. People often say that college and grad school are the times to meet your future spouse and that later, as time goes on, it gets harder. Do you agree?
6. In the 1980s there were no cell phones, Internet, or even personal computers. Texting didn't exist, and meeting up face-to-face, talking on the phone, or sending snail mail letters were the ways to socialize and stay connected. How do these differences affect college social life in this digital age as compared to in Forks, Knives, and Spoons?
7. Why do you think the author chose to set the story in the late 1980s? Does it impact the characters' choices and actions? If so, in what ways would the outcomes and characters' actions be different if it was set in modern day?
8. If trust was important enough to Amy to be on her “Ideal Traits of a Husband” list, why do you think she ignored or justified the many little fibs and lies Andrew told her? Does Andrew trust Amy? Should he?
9. What is the significance of Jenny changing her name? How does she change and grow through the story? Do you know someone like her?
10. How does the loss of Veronica's brother impact her relationship with Joey and the relationship with her parents?
11. Does Veronica's relationship to Amy influence her relationship with Joey? Do you think Amy acts as a stepping-stone to Joey? If so, in what ways?
12. Why do you think Joey was able to forgive Veronica? What allows Veronica and Joey to overcome the differences in their backgrounds and family cultures?
13. Why do you think Veronica's parents were able to come around rather quickly and be genuinely accepting of Joey? How do her parents, particularly Susan Warren, change through the book?
14. What do the fire alarms signify? In what ways did the pastor's sermon relate to the revelations during the alarms in their college years?
15. What kind of utensil would you label Andrew? Matt? Joey? Do you think Amy was on target with her labels? Can you fit people in your own life into the different Utensil Classifications? Amy believed in the UCS and Veronica didn't—where do you fall? Later, their belief in the system shifted. Did yours change at all?
16. Discuss the meaning of the Empire State Building throughout the story.
17. Amy finally got everything she wanted. Why do you think she made the decision she does at the end? Are you happy with her choices?