



These Fragile Things

Questions for Bookclubs

In order to provide book clubs with thought-provoking questions, it is necessary to reveal important aspects of the plot. We suggest that you finish the book before you read on.

A brilliantly imaginative and quirkily fresh take on the world. Brimful of originality and creativity.' The Literary Consultancy

'Davis is a phenomenal writer whose ability to create well rounded characters that are easy to relate to felt effortless.'

Compulsion Reads

'An elegant and understated prose style with a very satisfying rhythm. This is really very good writing indeed.' Debi Alper

'Leaves one panting to read more.' Jill Foulston

- Even before Judy's accident, the book considers the pressures on the nuclear family.
- How does Graham's image of himself as a father, which bore a striking resemblance to his own father as a middle-aged man, affect his approach to fatherhood?
- How far do you agree with the statement that two against one is the natural equation?
- What impact does Judy's fear of imperfection as an only child have on her behaviour?
- How did Judy's accident alter the dynamics of the Jones family?
- Which character do you think best fits the description of the rope in an unending tug of war?
- To what extent do you agree with Elaine's statement to Judy, 'We're all in it together.'
- In this book, Jane re-visits the theme of missing persons and the sense that the hole they leave behind can be greater than the space they took up in life. In this case, the missing person was an unborn child. How, if anything, do you think Elaine's miscarriage affected her approach to motherhood?
- To what extent do you think Graham's decision to believe was a choice?

- What advantage did Elaine feel being present at the scene of Judy's accident, if only in its aftermath, give her over Graham?
- What was the impact of Judy's request to keep her scars hidden from her father?
- To Elaine, her daughter's scars came to represent the price of having her back in one piece. What did they come to represent to Judy?
- Judy isn't the only member of the family to experience visions. What forms do Elaine's visions take?
- In what ways does Elaine come to feel trapped?
- Do you feel that Father Patrick's concern that he might be culpable for encouraging Judy when she was clearly vulnerable might be valid?
- To what extent does Graham's faith come to feel like a burden?
- How important is Miranda's role in the novel?
- Which character – including the supporting cast – did you feel the most sympathetic towards?
- Which things did it transpire were the most fragile of all?