



Half-Truths & White Lies

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.

The Daily Mail First Novel Award

- Launched March 2007 with the aim of finding new and exciting writing talent.
- Judged by a panel consisting of: Joanne Harris, author of *CHOCOLAT*, Francesca Liversidge, Senior Publishing Director, Transworld Publishers, Journalist Fanny Blake and the then Literary Editor of the Daily Mail Jane Mays.
- The winner *HALF-TRUTHS & WHITE LIES* was published in April 2009 by Black Swan.

- What do you think the central themes of this book are?
- Did you like the author's decision to have three first-person narrators? What effect do you feel the book's structure had on your enjoyment of it?
- Do you agree that routines within families make us feel safe?
- Tom comments, 'It's bizarre how two people who were brought up together can be so different.' Do you think that Mrs Albury's labelling of her daughters exacerbated their differences?
- Faye complains that Peter Churcher edited her out of their story. How do you feel about her interpretation of events?
- Much of the narrative explores the shifting dynamics in a triangular relationship. Peter and Laura's relationship altered after Tom came on the scene. What were the less expected consequences?
- Both Tom and Laura faced the decision of giving up their passion and accepting option number two. What happened as a result of their failures to act?
- According to Peter, the truth is that we reinvent ourselves with the stories we tell and re-tell. How far was this true in his case?

- Peter also says that there is not just a single version of events called the truth. Do you agree/disagree?
- To what extent did you sympathise with Faye. Was she unfeeling or was she a victim?
- Many people kept secrets in an attempt to protect others. Which of these were the most damaging in the longer term?
- Do you agree with Kevin that the most important person in a child's life is who tucks them in at night?