

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- The Honeybee Emeralds connects the lives of four contemporary women with three historical divas: Marguerite Bélanger, Mata Hari and Josephine Baker. How do you think the historical women changed, inspired or influenced the four modern-day protagonists?
- 2. How does the Parisian setting impact the story? Could the story have taken place in another setting? What does Paris mean to the four protagonists?
- 3. The three historical divas all shared some commonalities, w hat traits do the three divas share? Would these women have gotten along, had they had the chance to meet in real life?
- 4. The Honeybee Emeralds is a fictional necklace, but the main characters are all fascinated by it. What is it about expensive jewelry and rare gemstones that captured their imagination? What is it about such treasures that interests people more generally?
- 5. The characters spend some time connecting with the past, either through research, Google searches, archival digging or interviewing people with a connection to history. What is it about the quest to uncover secrets from the past that is compelling?
- **6.** What did Alice's fascination with the necklace tell us about her character?

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- 7. Daphne objected to her husband referring to their marriage as "the long haul." What did the events of the story help Daphne see about her marriage? Do you think they really are in it "for the long haul"?
- **8.** Alice and Alexander form a tentative relationship. What is the attraction for each of them?
- 9. How has Madame Boucher's attitude shifted by the end of the novel? What truths and changes has she embraced?
- 10. By the end of the novel Lily is faced with a romantic choice, did she make the right one?
- Displacement and belonging are themes in the book. Where do we see those themes enacted?
- 12. In the final scene, why do you think the author doesn't allow The Fellowship to know how Josephine Baker recovered The Honeybee Emeralds? What impact does that have on our understanding of the story?

## SPOTIFY PLAYLIST: HONEYBEE EMERALDS

Click here to listen to the playlist on Spotify!

He Went to Paris

JIMMY BUFFETT

Le Gamin de Partis

YVES MONTAND

Bonjour, Paris

FRED ASTAIRE, AUDREY HEPBURN, KAY THOMPSON

Vesoul

JACQUES BREL

The Ballad of John and Yoko

THE BEATLES

Il n'y a plus d'après

JULIETTE GRECO

Les Copains D'Abord

GEORGES BRASSENS

Ménilmontant

CHARLES TRENET

J'ai deux amours

ZAZ

J'ai deux amours

**IOSÉPHINE BAKER** 

Paris au mois d'août

CHARLES AZNAVOUR

Comme Joe Dassin

LES COWBOYS FRINGANTS

Tous les garcons et les filles

FRANCOISE HARDY

La chanson de Prévert

SERGE GAINSBOURG

La Chasse Aux Papillons

GEORGES BRASSENS

Je veux

ZAZ

Touch Me

THE DOORS

Flambée montalbanaise

**GUZ VISEUR** 

Le sud

NINO FERRER

Birth of the Blues

STÉPHANE GRAPPELLI

Pêche à la mouche

DJANGO REINHARDT

Les bras en croix

JOHNNY HALLYDAY

La Vie En Rose

MADELINE PEYROUX

Padam padam

ÉDITH PIAF

Belleville rendez-vous

-M-

La Valse d'Amélie

YANN TIERSEN

I love Paris

ELLA FITZGERALD

Verlaine

CHARLES TRENET

La Mer

CHANTAL CHAMBERLAND

Les yeux de ton père

LES NÉGRESSES VERTES

Couleur café

SERGE GAINSBOURG

C'est Magnifique

COLE PORTER

Zou Bisou Bisou

GILLIAN HILLS

Les 400 coups

JEAN CONSTANTIN

C'est si bon

YVES MONTAND

Non, je ne regrette rien

ÉDITH PIAF

La Vie en rose

ÉDITH PIAF

**Paris** 

ÉDITH PIAF

Under the Bridges of Paris

EARTHA KITT

Give Paris One More Change

JONATHAN RICHMAN & THE MODERN

LOVERS

**Out Last Summer** 

ABBA

La Madrague

BRIGITTE BARDOT

Bee Et La Pluie

MADAM JUTEQ

Sympathique

PINK MARTINI

La javanaise

UNNUR SARA

Petite fleur

SIDNEY BECHET

All I Really Want is Love

HENRI SALVADOR, LISA EKDAHL

J'ai Deux Amours

MADELEINE PEYROUX

Tous mes rêves

JILL BARBER

City Girl