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## Book Club Guide

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## Layers – Discussion Guide

Layers explores identity, secrecy, and the psychological consequences of hidden truths. Miranda, an adopted young woman, grew up believing her mother died in a car accident and that Dave was her father. As she begins to question her past, long-concealed relationships, motives, and betrayals gradually emerge. The novel examines how family narratives can be constructed, altered, or deliberately hidden, and how the search for truth can destabilise a person's sense of identity.

### Discussion Questions

- 1) How does growing up with incomplete knowledge about her family affect Miranda's sense of identity?
- 2) How does believing Dave is her father influence Miranda's understanding of trust?
- 3) How does the novel portray the emotional consequences of adoption when important information is hidden?
- 4) In what ways does secrecy function as a form of control within the story?
- 5) How do different characters attempt to reshape the narrative of the past?
- 6) How does the novel explore betrayal within intimate relationships?
- 7) What role does jealousy play in shaping long-term decisions?
- 8) How does the story examine unequal power dynamics within relationships?
- 9) How do past relationships continue to influence present behaviour?
- 10) What role does manipulation play in maintaining control over others?
- 11) How does the novel explore socially acceptable explanations hiding deeper truths?
- 12) Which characters appear motivated by fear rather than intention?
- 13) How does the title Layers reflect both structure and psychology?
- 14) Does the search for truth lead to clarity or further instability?
- 15) How does the novel explore dependency and control?
- 16) How do characters justify morally questionable actions?
- 17) How does the novel portray the long-term consequences of secrecy?

### Themes

- identity and origin
- adoption and belonging
- family secrecy

- manipulation and control
- jealousy and possession
- unequal relationships
- psychological dependency
- constructed narratives
- hidden pasts
- power and vulnerability
- trust and betrayal
- sexuality and control
- truth and instability
- long-term consequences of secrecy

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