

The Homemaker by Miranda Rijks – Discussion Questions

****There are spoilers in the following questions****

1. Have you ever had help in your home – a cleaner, a nanny or a housekeeper? How much would you trust them with your family?

2. What was your first impression of Maria? Did she seem too good to be true?

3. Imogen is juggling a B&B, her consultancy work, a little girl and a pregnancy. Did you understand why she was so relieved to hand over control to Maria?

4. Maria always wanted a family. How did learning about her past change the way you saw her? Did you ever feel sorry for her?

5. Imogen kept a terrible secret, even from Josh. Did you understand why? Should she have told him?

6. When Maria threatened to reveal Imogen's secret, did Imogen have any real choice but to do what she was told? What would you have done?

7. What did you think of Josh? Should he have noticed what was happening in his own home?

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8. The story is told from both Imogen's and Maria's points of view. How did being inside Maria's head affect your experience of the book?

9. The book explores nature versus nurture. Do you think we are shaped more by the family we are born into or by the way we are brought up?

10. Is being cruel to be kind ever the right thing to do?

11. Which of Maria's actions shocked you the most?

12. Is a secret kept to protect other people still a lie?

13. One reader suggested the book could have been called The Homewrecker. Do you agree?

14. Were you surprised by the twists? Which revelation shocked you the most?

15. Did you find yourself judging any of the characters for the choices they made? Who and why?

16. How did you feel about the ending? What do you think the future holds for Imogen and her family?

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