

The Only Child by Miranda Rijks – Discussion Questions

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

1. Chantal and Stuart are a golden couple. What was your first impression of them?

2. When you discovered the lie at the heart of Chantal's life, did you understand why she told it?

3. Is a lie told out of love any less of a lie?

4. When Chantal is blackmailed, she decides to fight fire with fire. Was she right? What would you have done?

5. How do you think Chantal's work as a divorce lawyer shaped the way she dealt with her problems?

6. What did you think of Stuart? How did his celebrity affect the family?

7. Alex is a passionate environmentalist. How did his point of view add to the story? Did you find him convincing as a seventeen-year-old?

8. What did you think of Luna and the influence she had on Alex?

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9. The book moves between Chantal's past and present. How did the chapters set in the past change the way you felt about her?

10. Do parents have the right to keep secrets from their children? Does a child have a right to know the truth about their own life?

11. How far would you go to protect your child? Did Chantal go too far?

12. Do you think Chantal was a good mother?

13. Why do you think the book is called The Only Child?

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? Did it go in the direction you expected?

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