

Discussion Questions for *The Exclusives*

1. Describe what you think *The Exclusives* is about thematically. Why do you think the author titled the book *The Exclusives*? What subtle meanings could it hold?
2. In what ways is *The Exclusives* a traditional thriller? How might you classify the book differently? Would you recommend this novel to Young Adult readers? Why or why not?
3. We learn in the first half of the novel that Josephine's mother is ill. How does her mother's illness affect Josephine's actions as a teenager? What does her death mean to Josephine and how does it change her?
4. Josephine narrates the novel in first person. What was it like for you reading what she'd done to Freya and Verity in her own words? Discuss Josephine's reliability as a narrator and how you felt about her as the protagonist.
5. Josephine spends the years 1996 to 2014 in Jordan. During that time how has Josephine changed? How has she stagnated? What is it that finally convinces her to see Freya?
6. Freya and Josephine are best friends with disparate personalities. Discuss the different ways they struggle to cope with the events that took place that fateful night in 1996. What are the repercussions for each character? How do their actions contribute to or hinder their personal development?
7. Consider Freya's actions at the party. Given Freya's actions that night along with the secret she kept to herself, do you feel Josephine was justified in her retaliation? Why or why not?
8. Our actions, or inactions, often have consequences beyond us. Which characters are indirectly affected by what happens to Josephine and Freya at the party? How were they involved?
9. The subject of rape is a highly relevant topic today. How did you feel about how Freya and Josephine dealt with what happened? In your view, do you feel that the author treated the subject well? Why or why not? How would you have broached the subject differently?
10. After all the build up in the story of Josephine's fear and years of hiding from Freya, did you think of the meeting between the two women was a satisfactory climax? Why or why not?
11. Discuss the book's conclusion. What do you make of Josephine's letters? Do you feel the ending of the story was effective? Why or why not?