

Book Club Guide – *While the Coin is in the Air*



The novel opens with Harper and her mother discussing law school options before flipping a coin. How does this moment set the tone for the rest of the book? In what ways does the theme of decision-making play a role in Harper's journey?



Harper struggles with feeling left behind as her friends achieve their dreams. How does her relationship with Maggie highlight this struggle? Do you think Harper's jealousy is justified?



Harper's grief over her mother's death plays a significant role in shaping her life choices. How does loss influence her decision-making, and how do you think her life would have looked different if her mother was still alive?



Infertility is a delicate and deeply personal theme in the novel. How does Harper's struggle with this issue impact her relationship with Bryan? How were the uncertainties of infertility different (and the same) as the uncertainties surrounding her job, house, and other future decisions?



The novel explores the idea of 'settling'—in careers, relationships, and personal dreams. Do you think Harper ultimately settles for a life she didn't initially plan, or does she carve out her own path?



The title *While the Coin is in the Air* suggests that a person's true desires are revealed in moments of uncertainty. Can you think of times in the book when Harper's true hopes became clear to her, even if she didn't act on them immediately? What about your own life?



Maggie and Harper have a long, deeply rooted friendship that often finds them on different career trajectories, but it's ultimately family and kids on which Harper wishes they could align. How does this effect their relationship in the novel, and why do you think it is suddenly so important to Harper? Have you ever experienced a similar shift in a friendship as life circumstances changed?



Harper spends much of the novel contemplating the future while being shaped by her past. If you were in her position, would you have made different choices? Do you think she ultimately finds what she's looking for?



If you could change one decision Harper makes in the novel, what would it be and why?