

The Marriage Pact by M.J. Pullen



Book Club Questions

1. What do you think of Marci's character at the beginning of the book? Is she sympathetic or merely selfish? Does your view of her change as the book goes on?
2. How do you see Marci's relationship with Doug? The reasons for their affair are never explicitly stated. What do you think brings them together?
3. Compare Marci's identity in Austin with the person she seems to be around her family and old friends in Atlanta.
4. Time and place are prominent elements in this book. How do the changes in time and setting impact the telling of the story?
5. At the beginning of the story, Marci is not a strong character. What do you think is her biggest weakness? How does it contribute to her dilemmas with Doug and Jake?
6. How do you feel about Jake and Marci's relationship in college? Why do you think each of them decides to take romance off the table, despite their obvious attraction to one another?
7. Pullen explores the theme of marriage and relationships throughout the novel. How do Beth's relationship with Ray, Aunt Mildred's sad story, and Nicole and Ravi's wedding paint a picture of marriage? What about Doug and Cathy? How do their stories impact Marci's view of marriage?
8. Marci's Dad, Arthur, has one of the smallest and most powerful roles in the novel. Why is his conversation with his daughters such a turning point?
9. 'Choice' is an underlying theme throughout the novel: choosing to go, choosing to stay, choosing one man or the other. Both Marci and her best friend Suzanne struggle with making romantic choices. What do you think Marci learns about decision-making by the end of the novel?
10. Do you think Marci and Jake will be happy together? Why or why not? If you were Jake, would you trust Marci's level of commitment? Is she capable of the maturity marriage requires?

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