

Discussion Guide

The three main characters all have issues with their parents about their life choices. Whom do you sympathize or identify with the most?

What surprised you most about Mary Quant's career?

The friendship between Mary and Chrissie anchors the story. How does Mary's rising fame reshape their dynamic, and what does the novel suggest about ambition within female friendships?

Discuss the contrasts between the main female characters' lifestyles. What do these differences reveal about class and privilege?

How does wealth act as both an enabler and a barrier for different characters?

Discuss how the aftermath of WWII shaped the lives of the characters and their parents.

Were the 1960s truly a time of great change? Did fashion and music play a part in this generational change, and how did those changes differ in the UK and the US?

Discuss how the book explores themes of loyalty and friendship between women.

Mary Quant is seen as a pioneer not just in fashion but as a businesswoman who ran a worldwide company. How much did her husband, Alexander Plunket Green, and her business partner Archie McNair contribute to her success?

The miniskirt becomes a global phenomenon. Does the novel frame fashion as superficial, political, empowering, or all three? How do the different women in the story experience its impact differently?