

Aurélie Thiele – THE PARIS UNDERSTUDY

1. How did family (or the lack of family) influence the choices Yvonne made? What about Madeleine?
2. If you'd been in Yvonne's shoes, what would you have done differently either before or during the war? Was there a "fork in the road" moment where Yvonne went the wrong way, or was there a succession of small steps in the wrong direction?
3. Was there a specific moment where you knew Yvonne was headed for big-time trouble but she didn't know? In your life, have you had a friend who, in your opinion, was headed for trouble or heartbreak or failure but could not see it for themselves? What did you do? Could someone have pulled Yvonne back, and if so, who?
4. Can you relate to Madeleine's fear of no longer excelling at the one thing she takes pride in being best at? Have you observed people treating their subordinates the way Madeleine treats Yvonne before the war? How did Madeleine's fame help or hinder her in being her best self?
5. Why did Henri and Madeleine behave so differently toward the Nazis, despite being married to each other?
6. What do you think will happen to Yvonne and Madeleine after the novel ends? Do you think Yvonne and Jules will ever repair their relationship?