



### Discussion Questions for Stuart Nadler's **THE INSEPARABLES**

- 1.) A major theme of *The Inseparables* is the necessity of figuring things out on your own despite the best efforts of previous generations to offer advice. In what ways do Oona and Lydia learn from the mistakes of their parents? In what ways do they make the same mistakes all over again?
- 2.) In our increasingly digital age, when anything and everything is simply a few clicks away and we put more and more of our lives online, is anything truly private anymore? In what ways do both Henrietta and Lydia fight against the idea that there is no longer any privacy?
- 3.) Why is Henrietta so embarrassed by *The Inseparables*? Is it the book's graphic content, its commercial appeal, its conflict with Henrietta's feminist principles, or something else entirely that makes her reluctant to embrace a new edition? What makes you think so?

- 4.) Could Lydia gain any insights into her own situation by reading her grandmother's book? What specifically could *The Inseparables* teach her?
- 5.) Is Henrietta resentful of her husband after sacrificing her academic career to help him run his business?
- 6.) Do you think there's anything that Oona and Spencer would do differently as parents knowing what they know now?
- 7.) As Henrietta prepares to sell the house she shared with her husband for years, she uncovers secrets about the man she loved and thought she knew inside and out. Are unexpected revelations more or less painful when discovered after a loved one has passed away? Does Henrietta view these secrets differently than she would be if they came to light while her husband was still alive?
- 8.) *The Inseparables* features several romantic relationships in various states of disarray. What's the most stable, or successful, romantic relationship portrayed in the book? What is it about that bond that you think allows it to endure?
- 9.) Is Oona still in love with Spencer?
- 10.) Everyone has a mother, and the unique mother/daughter bond is at the heart of *The Inseparables*. In what ways do the mother/daughter relationships on display in the novel remind you of your bond with your mother or your own children? How is the mother/daughter relationship contrasted with the father/daughter relationship over the course of the book?
- 11.) How does the title of Henrietta's book inform the novel as a whole? What does the title mean to you?