

# WIFE

## BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS



WHAT ARE SOME OF THE WAYS IN WHICH PENNY MANIPULATES ZOE AT THE BEGINNING OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP? DO YOU THINK THEIR DIFFERENCE IN AGE PLAYS A FACTOR?

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF INTERNALISED HOMOPHOBIA THAT PENNY EXPRESSES?

HOW DO YOU THINK ZOE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH HER MOTHER AND FATHER IMPACTED HER RELATIONSHIPS LATER IN LIFE?

ZOE FINDS CO-PARENTING DIFFICULT, AS SHE STATES: 'WE'VE ALWAYS GIVEN [MATTY AND ROSE] NO CHOICE BUT TO GO ALONG WITH OUR, 'THE PARENTS' DIVISION OF TIME. BECAUSE AT FIRST IT HAD TO BE THAT WAY. WE THOUGHT THAT STRUCTURE, CONSISTENCY, MATTERED ABOVE ALL. BUT ONCE THEY GOT OLDER, WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN OPEN TO ADAPTING THE SCHEDULE, IF THEY NEEDED'. DO YOU AGREE THAT THIS STRICT DIVIDING UP OF TIME WAS DETRIMENTAL TO THEIR CHILDREN?

ZOE DESCRIBES THEIR FAMILY'S CO-PARENTING SITUATION AS IF 'WE STARTED FROM A POSITION OF DIVORCE'. HOW DOES THIS COMPARISON OF DIVORCE FORESHADOW ZOE AND PENNY'S EVENTUAL BREAK UP?

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE LEGAL OBSTACLES THAT PENNY AND ZOE FACE WHEN DECIDING TO HAVE A CHILD IN THE LATE 90S/EARLY 2000S?

WHEN ZOE REFLECTS ON PENNY'S ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR, SHE SAYS 'SURELY, IF I WERE A STRAIGHT WOMAN, WITH AN ENRAGED HUSBAND WHO BEHAVED LIKE THAT, TWISTING EVERYTHING, CALLING ME GROTESQUE AND MONSTROUS, SHE WOULDN'T TELL ME I HAD TO SIT IN A CONFINED SPACE EVERY WEEK AND BE YELLED AT?' WHAT ARE THE SOME OF THE WAYS ZOE'S IDENTITY AS A GAY WOMAN COMPLICATED HER BREAK UP WITH PENNY?

DO YOU THINK THERAPY HAS A POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE IMPACT ON MEDIATING PENNY AND ZOE'S BREAK UP?

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION OF ROBIN'S ROLE AS A FATHER IN THE NOVEL? DO YOU EVER FEEL SORRY FOR HIM IN THIS ARRANGEMENT OR DO YOU THINK HE'S PURELY MANIPULATIVE?

DID YOU SUSPECT THE BETRAYAL THAT PENNY COMMITS? IF SO, WHAT MADE YOU ANTICIPATE THIS?