

For When I'm Gone – Reading Group Questions

- How relatable is Sylvia's character? Do you think she is likeable?
- Sylvia hoped to correct the mistakes of her own childhood and be the perfect mother. Can anyone be the perfect mother or is there no such thing?
- *'The universe conspires, the planets align [...] That's how it was for Sylvia and Paul'*. Do you believe that, sometimes, two people are destined to be together?
- Do you think that Sylvia's act of writing her manual is more of a cathartic process for herself or a last love letter to her family? Or both?
- Would you ever consider writing letters to your own family if faced with a similar situation?
- Why do you think Sylvia felt so jealous of her sister when she also loved her so much? Can you relate to Sylvia's emotions?
- Paul finds love again with Nush, how do you think their relationship will differ from the one he shared with Sylvia?
- If you were Paul, how would you feel about Sylvia's revelation – and the fact that she has kept this secret from him for so long?
- Which moments particularly stood out to you within the novel? Why is this?
- What do you think the overarching message is in *For When I'm Gone*?