

• THE GIRLY BOOK CLUB •
THE STATIONERY SHOP
BY MARJAN KAMALI

1. Did you enjoy this book? Rate it out of 5.
2. The first two chapters show us very different stages in Roya's life. Discuss the similarities and differences between her life as a married woman in New England and her life as a teenager living in Tehran.
3. How are Bahman and Walter different? How are they similar? What do you think Roya was looking for in each of them? How do her expectations for a relationship change throughout the story?
4. Consider Bahman's mother and her expectations for her son.
5. Roya and Zari have very different personalities and ways of looking at life, and the two sisters often argue and clash. But there is a bond between them that is unbreakable. Have you experienced that simultaneous closeness and clashing with siblings in your life? What do you think it is about the sibling relationship in general and Roya and Zari's sisterhood in particular that lends itself to such contradictions?"
6. In the 1950s, women in Tehran weren't allowed the freedoms, though still limited, that women in America were. How does Roya's family challenge those social expectations? How does that inform Roya's life as grown woman?
7. In chapter 14, the readers learn about the history between Mr. Fakhri and Bahman's mother. After reading this, why do you think Badri treated Roya so terribly?
8. In chapter 18, Bahman reveals the struggles of living with a mentally ill mother in Tehran. Discuss mental illness and its stigma as a group. How was mental illness viewed throughout time, and how does the treatment of the mentally ill vary across cultures?
9. The Stationery Shop is a beautifully told love story at its core. What did you think of the romance component, do you typically like romance as a genre?
10. *Spoiler Alert* Roya ends up with Walter at the end of the book, how do you think her life would have been different had her and Bahman met in the square on that fateful day?

