

THE RETREAT

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Nadia thinks that she wants 'a life centered in love and happiness and, most importantly, truth.' While it's clear during the course of the novel what Aman is hiding, what are Nadia's secrets? Who else in the novel is not being true to themselves?
- 2) What do you think are the deeper reasons that Nadia and her sister, Zeba, have had a difficult relationship?
- 3) How have Nadia and Zeba each dealt with their parents' relationship?
- 4) Discuss how the title of the novel, *The Retreat*, has many different meanings given the context of the story.
- 5) Were you surprised at Aman's revelation? Why or why not.
- 6) When Nadia and Zeba's father left, their mother retreated into silence. Discuss the ways silence has affected Nadia, Aman, Zeba. Are there times when silence is the best policy?
- 7) Near the end of the novel, Aman insists he loved Nadia and he always will, and that their marriage wasn't a sham. Do you believe all or part of this? Why or why not?
- 8) Discuss the role of food, and how it may reflect the emotions of the characters in the novel.
- 9) Were you happy with the ending?

