

Meg Cabot

QUEEN OF BABBLE Book Group

Questions for Discussion

- 1) Did you find Lizzie running off to England to be with Andrew – a guy she barely knew – believable? Have you ever done anything like that?
- 2) While Lizzie's predilection to do the less sensible thing (go off to Europe and not finish her degree) leads to her getting into messes, it is also the secret to her success as she's willing to take chances and not do the safe thing. Do you think the key to Lizzie's success is not thinking about the ramifications of her actions? How does this help or hurt her throughout her life and the course of the book?
- 3) Lizzie's not called Queen of Babble for nothing. Do you find her inability to keep her mouth shut endearing, hilarious, refreshing, annoying or all of the above? Can you relate to her dilemma? Have you ever had a Queen of Babble moment?
- 4) Each chapter begins with a snippet from Lizzie's "History of Fashion" senior thesis. What did you think of the vignettes? How did they help set the tone for the book? Do you think she acquired her degree?
- 5) Whenever she sees someone, Lizzie immediately sizes them up by what they are wearing (Andrew with his red leather break-dancing jacket, Luke on the train with his mesh leather belt and Hugo shirt). Do you think Lizzie is too judgmental or superficial or that her first impression based on clothes is a highly accurate way of figuring out what a person is really like?
- 6) What do you think of Lizzie's grandmother? Her alcohol-laced remarks are actually filled with a lot of wisdom. Is she the best person in the Nichols family for Lizzie to go to when she needs advice?
- 7) While Lizzie is unable to keep a secret, there seems to be a lot of artifice in terms of her looks – her carry-on bag is so heavy as it's filled with product. Do you think that it's contradictory that she's an open book on one hand and somewhat artificial on the other hand?
- 8) Is there a difference between Lizzie's and Andrew's lies? Lizzie allows the girl on the airplane to think that she is Jennifer Garner and doesn't let anyone know that she has not graduated; Andrew doesn't tell Lizzie that he is not a teacher and lives at home and lies about his employment status to collect money from the government. How are these lies—or omissions of the truth—different or the same? Who is the worse liar?
- 9) Dominique wants to replace the "tacky claw-foot tubs with Jacuzzis" and get rid of the pull-chain toilets at Chateau Mirac. She also wears the latest (and very expensive) high-end designer clothing. On the other hand, Lizzie finds the bathtubs and toilets charming at the chateau, and loves to wear vintage fashion. Is Lizzie the perfect foil for Dominique? In another situation, could you see these girls ever being friends?
- 10) Is it unrealistic that a guy as seemingly perfect as Luke would fall in love with a girl as seemingly imperfect as Lizzie—especially when he could clearly have any girl he wants? What do you think he sees in Lizzie?