

## Book Club Questions

How are Sealy and Jeannie the same and different? Sisters have unique relationships with their parents and experiences. What in your own life triggers similar and distinct behaviors?

Why are Jessica and Sealy ambivalent in their interactions? What are their motivations and underlying feelings?

Do you have to know the secrets of your parents' past? When is it appropriate and what would you do with this information?

With today's advancements in genealogy, one's origin is more available and often necessary for medical reasons. In the case of Sealy, this knowledge had profound consequences. Discuss the result in terms of Jessica, Joseph, and Sealy, expectations of responsibility as well as physical and emotional needs .

How does the character of Louise influence Sealy's story and that of the town?

Paul followed in his father's footsteps in various ways. What has he given up and gained by becoming Town Manager.

The theme of protector runs through the book. Discuss what role it plays in the character's lives and the results.

Discuss the power of women in *The Underpainting*, and how their lives influence the town.

What do Roxie and Reese offer to the story? How would the story be without them?

Creating the character of a bully is layered. Reactions and reasons for behaviors are hard to decipher. What incidents influenced Diane's behavior? How could she have changed?