

## Reading Guide Questions for More Like Her

1. What's the significance of the opening quote by Anne Sexton?
2. Which of the four lead women (Frannie, Jill, Lisa or Emma) can you most relate to? Is the most sympathetic? Feels the most foreign?
3. What does Frannie mean when she says, "*Things are never rocky with girls like Jessica?*"
4. In an episode of Mad Men, the men of Sterling Cooper say that women are either Jackie O or Marilyn Monroe. Mad Men is set in the 1950s. Do you think this advertising pitch could fly now? Did it fly even then?
5. Psychologists say that when women want to bond they default to gossiping about another woman to make a connection. What do you think about this?
6. Without Emma's tragic end, do you think Jill would have continued on her path to that unattainable ideal? Would she ever have questioned her path or stopped to ask if "having it all" actually made her happy?
7. Are we killing ourselves to be perfect for ourselves? Our partners? Or are we in competition with other women?
8. Why does Lisa seem to be immune to the pressures of conformity? Do you think she really is or is it an act? How does her relationship with Grady factor in? What about her relationship with her mother?
9. Do you think you need to be perfect? If yes, why? If no, why not?
10. I read this statistic that a percentage of women die in restaurant bathrooms after choking on something they ate. Rather than make a fuss, they excused themselves from the table. They chose etiquette over life. Why do you think

- they do that? Do you think it's just us or does society tell us to behave like this?
11. Do you think we talk ourselves out of having those "gut feelings" about people, like Frannie did with Jamie's behavior at the mixer? Why don't we trust our gut?
  12. Why do we, as a society, celebrate when someone we think "has it all" stumbles? And why, when someone finally asks for help do we become angry because "what do THEY have to be upset about! They have it all!"
  13. Why do you think Sam has such a hard time with being a hero? Is there any other way he could have handled that situation?
  14. What role does sexuality have in More Like Her? Why doesn't Frannie see anything wrong with Ryan not touching her for over a year? Do you think Frannie is overwhelmed with how much she's sexually attracted to Sam? What about Lisa and her overt sexuality? What about Jill – thinking her sexuality is one of the only things that make her loveable?
  15. What role does shame play in More Like Her?
  16. How does the title of the book play into the themes?
  17. If Emma had lived – what do you think would have happened? Would she have returned to Jamie?
  18. How does Emma's family history play into her tragedy?
  19. What does 'happily ever after' mean to Frannie? Sam? Lisa? Jill?
  20. Could anything have saved Emma?