

# book club questions

## FIRST LIE WINS

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Discuss the meaning of the title, *First Lie Wins*, particularly in the context of this quote: “There’s an old saying: The first lie wins. It’s not referring to the little white kind that tumble out with no thought; it refers to the big one. The one that changes the game. The one that is deliberate. The lie that sets the stage for everything that comes after it. And once the lie is told, it’s what most people believe to be true. The first lie has to be the strongest. The most important. The one that has to be told.”

The author, Ashley Elston, described Evie Porter as “morally gray.” How is this presented in the novel?

Reese Witherspoon described this book as “a cat & mouse game.” How is this presented in the novel?

Compare and contrast *First Lie Wins* to other con artist books you’ve read.

Compare and contrast *First Lie Wins* to other psychological thrillers you’ve read.

Compare and contrast *First Lie Wins* to other Reese’s book club books you’ve read.

Why did the author choose to begin the novel with Evie meeting Ryan’s friends?

Why did the author choose a Southern setting (Louisiana, Georgia, etc.)?

What attracts Evie to Ryan Sumner and why?

Was this job the only logical choice for Evie?

Discuss the motivations behind Evie’s actions throughout *First Lie Wins*.

Compare and contrast Evie and Ryan.

Discuss Evie's past and how it affected her present.

Discuss the imposter Lucca Marino storyline.

Discuss the Amy Holder storyline.

Discuss the Andrew Marshall storyline.

Discuss Devon's role in Evie's life.

Why did the author use flashbacks and multiple timelines so heavily?

Discuss the significance of the origami swans.

Discuss the theme of identity in *First Lie Wins*.

What roles do truth and lies play in *First Lie Wins*?

Discuss the pacing of this suspenseful thriller.

Were you able to keep track of this complex plot?

Did you find any holes in the execution of such a detailed plot?

Did the identity of Evie's boss, Mr. Smith, surprise you?

Compare and contrast Evie and Mr. Smith.

What did you think was in the deposit box?

Do you believe Ryan and Evie told each other the truth?

Did the ending of *First Lie Wins* surprise you?

What do you think Evie will do in the future?