

Discussion Questions

Chapters 1 - 3

1. How does an everyday event (eating yogurt with her friends) lead Abby on a journey to Bollywood?
2. Is Abby curious about her father? How is her curiosity manifested through the years?
3. What did you think of Abby's imaginary string quartet? Does music resonate with different feelings and situations in your life?

Chapters 4 - 6

4. Was Abby's mother justified in keeping her father's identity a secret? Should she have told Abby once she found out? Or was she right in waiting till Abby was older?
5. In today's world of camera phones and the internet, are celebrities and their families entitled to privacy? Do social media like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram truly allow anyone to have privacy?
6. Abby goes through a roller coaster of feelings (anger, hurt, surprise, shock) once her mother reveals her father's identity. Discuss. How would you have felt in Abby's situation?

Chapters 7 - 9

7. In Chapter 7, Abby thinks, *this was not merely International Day. It was a debutant ball for Abby Tara Spencer*. How? What does Abby mean? Do you have International day in your school?
8. How does the revelation that her dad did not receive her Mom's letter and did not know of her existence change the way Abby and the reader perceive her father?
9. How does Naveen's invitation to visit him and her grandmother change Abby's world? Were you afraid, excited, worried, and thrilled for Abby? What does her willingness to make the journey say about Abby?

Chapters 10 - 12

10. Abby's journey to India is her first trip outside America. How does Abby cope with all the challenges, surprises, and cultural differences?
11. The moment Abby meets her father and her grandmother forever changes her life. Was there a moment in your life that changed you forever?
12. Mumbai is a city with glaring disparities between the rich and the poor. Abby is justifiably troubled by what she sees. Have you ever travelled to a country or a part of your city that made you aware of the differences between the haves and the have-nots?

Chapters 13 - 15

13. Abby's friendships with Shiva and Shaan are important during her stay in Mumbai. How are they similar and yet different?
14. How and why is Abby's time spent at her father's house both exciting and exhausting?
15. Abby watches a Bollywood movie for the first time with Shaan. The actors speak in Hindi, a language Abby does not understand. Have you seen a Bollywood movie? Or a movie in a foreign language you didn't understand?

Chapters 16 - 18

16. How does Abby's ride through the backstreets of Mumbai help her to understand India/Mumbai better?
17. Abby realizes that her life story might become a topic of interest for the media in India. How does that make her feel?
18. How does Abby and Shaan's visit to her dad's film set change their relationship?

Chapters 19 - 21

19. Abby introduces Grandma Tara to her Mom over Skype, like she was introduced to her dad earlier in the story. Can technology be a blessing? How would it feel to be in Abby's shoes and have the people you love (Mom, Dad, Grandma Tara, Shiva) not know each other?
20. The shopping trip with Rani and the photo shoot are Abby's encounters with celebrity and showbiz glamor. Do you think they will change Abby?
21. Dad protects the details of his and Abby's relationship from the journalist (Maya) during the interview. What did you think of his actions? Do you think they were justified?

Chapters 22 - 25

22. When the photographer makes negative remarks about her father, Abby cannot help but defend him. What do her actions say about Abby's feelings for her dad? Could Abby have handled the situation differently?
23. Abby is unable to tell her dad the truth before the story becomes newspaper headlines. Why?
24. Is Abby's Mom justified in saying that she should not have sent Abby to Mumbai on her own? Would Abby have been better off not making the journey?

Chapters 26 - 28

25. How does the red carpet event exemplify the saying, *the show must go on*?
26. Abby's journey home is very different from her flight to India. How and why?
27. After her return from India, Abby says that she is biracial on the information form in school. What does this say about Abby's journey? How has she changed and remained the same as the girl at the beginning of the story?