

DISPASSIONATE LIES
Book Club Discussion Guide

Sexuality

1. Ladesque blames her immaturity on the fact she is a computer geek. However, do you think her social inadequacy could be an effect of having lived an asexual life? Would not having to deal with sexual feelings and relationships make one less mature or more mature?
2. Ladesque 'comes of age' as far as experiencing sexual arousal in her thirties. How is her experience different from the experience of those who go through puberty at the normal age? How is it the same?
3. Those without libido are painted as being lonely, desperate, and suicidal. How big a role does our sexuality play in our social and mental well-being? Would being totally without libido have more repercussions on our well-being than being a sexual being but living without a mate?
4. Ladesque rethinks all she's been taught about sex once she experiences her libido, including the suggestion one chooses a mate based on genetic potential. In the end, on what did she base her choice of mate? Was it a realistic choice?

Title

5. The author crowd-sourced the title of this novel on social media. Was the crowd favourite, DISPASSIONATE LIES, a good choice for this novel?

Politics

6. This book is written by a Canadian author about a Canadian protagonist yet is published by an American publishing house (WolfSinger Publications). Would you have preferred more of an American slant to the story? Would having an American heroine add credibility to the story? In DISPASSIONATE LIES, the U.S. and Canada work together to get cyberspace back up and running. How likely is it that these two nations would do this? How likely is it that Canada would be able to keep secrets from the U.S.?

Computers & Cyberspace

7. The 2035 crash of cyberspace obliterates a good portion of second millennium history, blocking Ladesque's search for the historic truth about her sexuality. How likely is it that the Internet will crash in the near future? If it does crash, the loss of what feature/s of the Internet would impact you the most?
8. At the back of the book, the author includes links to articles supporting the many themes explored in DISPASSIONATE LIES, from the effects of drugs on libido to materials technology to the vulnerability of cyberspace. Which if any of these articles surprised you as being true?
9. Do you agree with the author that the biggest threat to world stability in the future won't be from nations possessing weapons of mass destruction but rather from whoever invents the quantum computer?
10. How will having instant access to unfathomable knowledge affect the course of human history?