

Reading Group Questions

1. *I Thought I Knew You* is told from two women's points of view. What effect did this have? Did you feel closer to one woman than the other? How does the fact that Holly's story is told in the first person and Jules's in the third affect your reading?
2. Holly campaigns for victims of alleged sex offences to speak out. How does she justify not believing Saffie? Do you sympathize with her?
3. Do you sympathize with Jules when she goes over Saffie's head to buy the pregnancy test?
4. The novel is as much about female friendship as it is about the rape allegation. Describe the friendship between Holly and Jules. What bonds them, and what breaks this bond? Can their friendship ever recover? Discuss the nature of different female friendships.
5. Holly breaks open her stepdaughter Freya's diary and searches Saul's room for 'evidence' about him. Jules looks through Saffie's laptop to see what she's been doing. Do parents have a right to pry into their children's lives like this?
6. Do you sympathize with Pete's reaction to Saffie's allegation?
7. Can you still love someone whom you suspect of doing something terrible?

8. How do you think the story would have played out if Saul and Saffie's characters were reversed – i.e. if Saul were outgoing and popular, and Saffie shy and awkward?
9. *'Saffie's accusation hasn't just changed the present and the future for us all; it's altering the past as I know it, and I'm not sure which is harder to deal with.'* What does Holly mean by this?
10. *'Which of us has had it harder? Jules, the mother of a daughter who was raped, or me, the mother of the boy who was accused?'* Who do you think has it harder – Jules or Holly?
11. Since the #MeToo campaign there has been more discussion than ever in the media about sexual harassment and assault. What do you think this has changed for women? What do you think it has changed for men? Discuss what other impact the movement has had.