

1. How do you feel about the fact that neither Ann nor Reese end up with a partner, given the goal of reality dating shows like *The Bachelor* is to walk away with a marriage proposal? How do these types of shows and Last Chance reflect or amplify certain social pressures?
2. The story references physical watches and time—or lack of it—frequently. What does time symbolize?
3. The deaths in the book—Bear’s, Lamb’s, and Reese’s—have reverberating effects on Ann, Kris, and Honey. How does each character react to these events, and how do these reactions reflect the characters’ moral compass? How do the characters change—or not—after each death?
4. Why do you think the author chose to open the book with Magda putting makeup on Reese? What does makeup represent in this novel, and how does it parallel reality television and constructed societal roles?
5. Although he plays an important role in Ann’s history, Ann’s ex-boyfriend from college is never named. Why do you think that is?
6. Both Ann and Reese are in recovery from alcohol and drug addiction. Why do you think the author chose to portray characters in recovery as opposed to characters in the midst of addiction? How are addicts normally portrayed in fiction and popular culture?
7. The relationship between Honey and Ann is complicated. Do you think Honey genuinely cared for Ann, or was Ann merely a means to an end?
8. Marigolds are known as “companion plants.” In other words, they help adjacent plants and flowers grow by repelling bugs and insects. With this in mind, discuss the meaning of the title of the book, *Beneath the Marigolds*.
9. What role does Bear’s death play in the book? How does it mirror Reese’s fate?
10. What’s the significance of the red-haired woman in the AA meeting in the epilogue? What do you think happens to her, and to Ann, after the novel concludes?