

**Book Club Questions for  
The Golden Couple by Sarah Pekkanen**

1. How does Marissa and Matthew's son's awareness of their troubled marriage add complexity to the story? What does it reveal about the impact of marital problems on children?
2. Avery uses an unconventional therapy approach, referring to herself as a "consultant" instead of a "therapist." What do you make of her ten-session methodology? Would you consider using a similar approach in real life?
3. Marissa's infidelity causes guilt and shame, making her distant and secretive. How well do you think the book handles the repercussions of infidelity and its effects on relationships?
4. Avery's focus on open communication is an unconventional approach to resolving marital conflicts. Do you believe this kind of therapy could work in real life? Why or why not?
5. The role of social media in strained relationships is explored in the book. How do you think digital mediums like social media impact modern relationships, and do they mirror the effects shown in the story?
6. Matthew's workaholic behavior and neglectful parenting strain his relationship with his family. How important do you think work-life balance is in maintaining a successful marriage?
7. Marissa and Matthew both confront past traumas and insecurities that contributed to the infidelity. How are themes of honesty and forgiveness portrayed in their journey toward healing?
8. The novel includes side characters like Polly, Rachel, and Derek. Who among them do you relate to the most, and who did you like or dislike the most, respectively?
9. Marissa is presented as a relatable character, struggling to balance various pressures. How effectively does the book depict the challenges faced by women trying to juggle personal and professional lives?
10. The authors use multiple perspectives in the story. How does this affect your reading experience, and how might the story be different if told from only one perspective?
11. Avery's unorthodox methods raise questions about the boundaries of ethical behavior in helping others. Do you believe the end justifies the risks she takes, or do you think her approach is too extreme?

12. What's the meaning behind the title "The Golden Couple"? Discuss the irony in the name in relation to Marissa and Matthew's relationship.
13. How do Marissa and Matthew's experiences of grief and loss shape their characters and influence the overall plot?
14. Avery's assumptions about the Bishops based on appearance and body language play a role in the story. What assumptions did you make about Marissa and Matthew in their first interaction with Avery? Why?
15. Were you surprised by the ending? What parts of the story led you to suspect certain characters, and did the resolution of certain subplots meet your expectations?