

Dear Book Club Member:

Thank you for selecting [A Family Affair](#), Truth in Lies, Book 1 for your book club. This story is filled with moral ambiguity, difficult choices, and second chances—all great topics for conversation and contemplation.

Readers contacted me asking for discussion questions for their book club, and these requests prompted me to create this guide. It's only a starting point, as I'm guessing these questions will lead to a few of your own. There are no rules, no constraints, and certainly no right answers.

Speaking of answers, do you know the most-asked question??? “Who is Christine’s real father?” And the answer? I have no idea...yet!

The saga continues with [A Family Affair: Spring](#), where we'll see more of Uncle Harry, Greta, Nate and Christine, Gloria, Pop and, of course, Lily.

See you in Magdalena!

Mary

Truth in Lies Series:

Book One, *A Family Affair*

Book Two: *A Family Affair: Spring*

Book Three: *A Family Affair: Summer*

Book Four: *A Family Affair: Fall*

Book Five: *A Family Affair: Christmas*

Book Six: *A Family Affair: Winter*

Book Seven: *A Family Affair: The Promise*

Book Eight: *A Family Affair: The Secret*

Book Nine: *A Family Affair: The Wish*

Book Ten: *A Family Affair: The Gift*

Book Eleven: *A Family Affair: The Weddings*, a novella

Book Twelve: *A Family Affair: The Return*

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Discussion Questions for *A Family Affair*

Truth in Lies Series, Book One

By Mary Campisi

- What is the significance of Gloria's homecoming meals? Does she have them prepared as a true celebration? If not, why does she do it? How are they different from the meals Miriam prepares?
- What role does the Blacksworth's cook, Greta, serve in *A Family Affair*?
- Why does Harry Blacksworth behave as though he cares about nothing or anyone but himself? Is this his true nature or merely an act to protect himself? If so, what is he protecting himself from? How does he redeem himself by the end of the book?
- Are Gloria Blacksworth's ailments real, fabricated, or a combination? How does she cope with her illness and the disappointments in her life?
- What is Nate Desantro's true passion and why didn't he follow it?
- How did Lily change the lives of those around her?
- Why did Gloria want Christine to marry Connor Pendleton?
- Redemption is a big theme in *A Family Affair*. How can Harry and Gloria—two of the most lost souls—garner redemption?
- What constitutes a family?
- Who was the real Charles Blacksworth?
- Who do you think was Christine's real father and why? Should she find out who her biological father is and if so, why?
- Why didn't Charles divorce Gloria? Why did he lead two lives instead of choosing one? Which one should he have chosen and why?
- What is the significance of the pocket watch and why did everyone want it? Christine? Harry? Why did Charles give it to Lily and why did Lily want Harry to have it?
- How does Lily provide the epiphany for Nate, Christine, and Harry?
- If Miriam had told Nate the truth about his father, how might the relationship between Charles and Nate been different?
- Is there anything you are left wondering about at the end of the story?
- What is the significance of the series name, *Truth in Lies*? How does this fit with the book(s)? Double meaning??
- Which family is the real one—the wife and daughter Charles Blacksworth had in Chicago or the woman and child he visited four days a month?