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## Johnston Public Library Book Discussion Questions

### **The Paris Apartment** by Lucy Foley

#### Summary

Jess needs a fresh start. She's broke and alone, and she's just left her job under less than ideal circumstances. Her half-brother Ben didn't sound thrilled when she asked if she could crash with him for a bit, but he didn't say no, and surely everything will look better from Paris. Only when she shows up – to find a very nice apartment, could Ben really have afforded this? – he's not there.

The longer Ben stays missing, the more Jess starts to dig into her brother's situation, and the more questions she has. Ben's neighbors are an eclectic bunch, and not particularly friendly. Jess may have come to Paris to escape her past, but it's starting to look like it's Ben's future that's in question.

The socialite – The nice guy – The alcoholic – The girl on the verge – The concierge

Everyone's a neighbor. Everyone's a suspect. And everyone knows something they're not telling.

#### Discussion Questions

1. Why did Jess decide to come to Paris?
2. Ben is Jess' half-brother and though they were raised by different families, they're really the only family each other has. We only got brief hints and explanations of their shared past. Did you want to know more about their backstory, particularly when it came to their mother?
3. Jess eventually gets into the apartment and Ben is no where to be found. How would you have handled the situation if you were Jess?
4. Ben was raised by a well-off foster family while Jess bounced around several toxic and abusive homes. How did this differing upbringing influence who they became as adults?
5. Were you surprised when it turned out that Sophie, Nick, Mimi, Antoine, Jacques are one big family and not just random residents? Or did you see it coming before the reveal?

6. Ben is oftentimes referred to as a chameleon—while he is always charming, he can somewhat blend with whoever he's with and Nick remarks that he probably never knew the real Ben. What is your overall impression of Ben? Why do you think he always wears a mask so to speak?
7. Did you like the Paris setting?
8. Did you believe that Ben was dead or did you suspect that he could potentially be alive?
9. Let's talk about the climax. We find out after Nick revealed to Jacques what Ben was doing—he went to kill Ben but Mimi stopped him and ended up killing Jacques. Sophie, hating Jacques and caring for Ben, covers up Jacques' murder and keeps Ben alive. What were your thoughts about this reveal?
10. After Ben is saved by Jess, he tells her: *"I couldn't help myself, you know? That family. Everything we never had. I wanted to be part of it. I wanted them to love me. And at the same time, I wanted to destroy them. Partly for living off women who might have been Mum, at one stage in her life. But also, I suppose, just because I could."* What is your interpretation of this line and Ben's motivations with the family?
11. Did you like the ending? What happens next for each of the main characters?

Summary from GoodReads.com  
Discussion Questions from BookClubChat.com