• If you were Rachel, how would you feel about discovering your father was still alive? Would you pursue inquiries? Or leave it be?
• Do you think Rachel would have been happier not knowing her father was alive?
• What did you think of Simon at the beginning of the book? How did your impressions change?
• This book takes place among the small but colorful segment of society known as the Bright Young Things. Had you heard of them before? Was there anything about them that surprised you?
• The Bright Young Things were a culture of youth. By their standards, both Simon and Rachel are considered “old”. Do you feel the generational difference between Simon, Rachel, Olivia, and Cece? Or is it less a matter of generation and more of character?
• Are you a Rachel, an Olivia, or a Cece? Why?
• What did you think happened between Rachel’s parents? Were you surprised by the final resolution?
• How does Rachel’s father being an earl affect your impression of him and his actions throughout the book? How would this story have been different if her reappearing father was a doctor or a dock-worker?
• What role does the war and the memory of the war play in this book?
• Rachel reflects that truth isn’t necessarily what happened but what one believed happened, that stories take on a truth of their own. Do you agree or disagree with this?