

Discussion Questions for *The Unexpected Son*

Book Club Guide

- In a close-knit, conservative society like Palgaum's in the 1970s, what were the chances of a girl like Vinita and a man like Som marrying? If yes, would their marriage survive?
- Why does Vinita's family lie to her about her child dying? As heartless as it seems, are their actions justified?
- If Vinita had been awake during childbirth and insisted on keeping the child, what kind of a twist would it lend to the story?
- Is Girish's reaction to Vinita's confession too strong? Unexpected? If so, why?
- Why doesn't Vinita automatically think of her brother or mother as prospective bone marrow donors when she's told she can't be one?
- Is Rohit's reaction to Vinita's sudden appearance appropriate under the circumstances? Discuss the issue of an adopted child and parent meeting for the first time.
- A remotely possible but unlikely marrow donor is Som Kori's wife (since she's his first cousin). Discuss the implications of that particular possibility.
- Why are Vishal and Sayee's twin sons referred to a few times but never shown in the book? What role do they play?
- Vinita's mother is almost always harsh in her judgment of Vinita. Is she justified in her attitude?
- Discuss Arya's role in the story. What does she bring to the plot?
- Vishal is always the stern, humorless brother. What motivates him in his relationship with Vinita? Discuss his behavior and what it means to you as a reader.
- My favorite challenge to readers is to ask them to discuss some other ways the story could have ended. Get as creative as you wish.