

1. There are four contracts in play in this novel:
  - 1) the deal with the Saudi government to build a children's museum, which doesn't materialize;
  - 2) the subcontract D-Three is forced to sign with Owen Associates;
  - 3) the exhibition contract offered to Ev by the gallery owner; and
  - 4) the marriage contract between Jo and Ev.

How does Jo feel about each of them at the start, and how do her feelings change?

2. Jo and Ev have such different personalities, yet they've developed a successful business together. How have they managed it, and at what cost?

3. Myriam follows the conventions of her society despite its restrictions. Jo finds those restrictions hugely burdensome. Yet Jo and Myriam develop a mutual fondness. What enables them to bridge the cultural divide?

4. Diane and Jo have been at odds for decades, at least in Jo's mind. Entrenched family relationships tend to persist, yet the relationship between these two sisters manages to undergo redefining. What makes this possible?

5. At the start, Ev and Jo disagree about the value of the Saudi job. As things progress, Ev grows further disenchanted and turns his attention elsewhere. What drives his interest in showcasing his work at an art gallery? Is there a subtext of resentment toward Jo? Is there a subtext to Jo's response?

6. Jo and Becca are both people who are set in their opinions. They disagree about the Saudi job, among other things, yet they work well together. What pulls them together? What forces them apart? Should Jo have fired the girl?

7. Jo pursues personal redemption in the form of business success until the plane crash forces her to re-evaluate her motives. Do you expect her to develop different pursuits as a result?

8. After years of disinterest in bringing another creature into their household, Jo decides to give Ev a puppy. What will it mean to each of them? How do you envision the future of their relationship?

9. Is there a pattern to the discoveries Jo makes as a result of her year of struggle in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia?