

Right Where We Left Us

Discussion Questions

1. Temperance and Duncan have a complicated history. Did you think they deserved a second chance as a couple? What about each of them made them keep coming back to each other?
2. Both Temperance and Duncan feel they are not good enough for others—Temperance for her parents, Duncan for Temperance and, in many ways, for himself. Explore the damage done by these kinds of expectations. Do you think the two of them came together because of these issues, or in spite of them?
3. Put yourself in Duncan's shoes. Would you have taken the money?
4. Despite knowing it hurt them, Temperance and Duncan kept finding ways to connect with each other over the years. Why do you think they did that, knowing how hard it was to leave each time? Why do you think they didn't take it as a sign that they could work things out?
5. Was there any point at which you thought they might not end up together? Did you think Bodhi or Millie might have been better partners?
6. Parental influence is strong in this book. Temperance's parents ignore her unless she's doing what they want, which hurts her. Duncan's parents outwardly show love and don't put pressure on him to succeed, but that also ends up hurting him. Do you think one way of parenting is harder to overcome than the other? Why do you think Will and Gia had high expectations for the rest of their children but not for Duncan?
7. Duncan is always hurting his hands. Temperance is always exhausted and pushing her body to its limits. What about the way they treat themselves is indicative of the way they treat each other? Are they able to change or heal any of these patterns as the book goes on?
8. Temperance and Duncan loved each other for years, but it wasn't until their thirties that they were able to handle that love. Are there any relationships in your life, romantic or otherwise, that were interrupted or disrupted due to timing and circumstance? Were there any points in your life where you got a second chance at that relationship?

