

PERFECT ON PAPER

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The premise of *Perfect on Paper* is centred around Darcy's secret role: as the agony aunt who gives anonymous advice to those who post letters through Locker 89. Do you believe it's ethical to offer advice on people's love lives? If yes or no, why?
2. Each chapter of *Perfect on Paper* begins with a letter from Locker 89 or a snippet from Darcy's notebook. Why do you think the author has chosen to frame the narrative in this way?
3. Darcy finds out about Raina's secret (that she rigged the student body elections to beat Brooke) in a letter posted to Locker 89 and subsequently tells Brooke at a party while Brooke and Raina are dating. What do you think about Darcy's decision to tell Brooke?
4. We learn that Darcy has not told her best friend (and crush), Brooke about Locker 89. This is because Darcy advised both Brooke and a girl she liked not to pursue their relationship with each other for her own gain. Is interference when it comes to another's love life ever ok?
5. Darcy's opinion of Alexander (Brougham) is marred by his blackmailing of her, but this later changes. How does the author explore the validity of preconceptions in this novel? Do you believe Darcy was correct in her assumptions?
6. 'It was textbook' is a phrase Darcy uses to describe when people fit particular attributes assigned to particular 'types' of people. How does the author use this throughout the novel? How do you think this links to the book's title?
7. Many of the main characters in *Perfect on Paper* are LGBTQ+, but for most characters, their sexuality is an incidental characteristic and not a main plot or character driver. How does this compare to other novels you may have read in this genre?
8. On Page 206, Brooke says to Darcy that she "didn't really see [her] with a guy... but I guess a het relationship would have its pros" to which Darcy responds, "Well, it wouldn't be a het relationship, would it? ... Because I'm not straight." Why do you think bisexuality (in comparison to homosexuality or heterosexuality) is sometimes dismissed? What do you think of the way the author explores sexuality and bisexuality in the novel?
9. Alexander is Australian; Darcy is American. Can you identify any moments where their different cultures and backgrounds cause a clash, or result in humour? Can you think of examples in your own life where a friendship or relationship with someone from another part of the world has blossomed?

FROM THE AUTHOR OF
ONLY MOSTLY DEVASTATED
SOPHIE GONZALES

