

## A Girl with a Knife Book Club Questions

1. When embroidering with her friends and their mothers, Ella suggests they put on the Shakespeare play “Twelfth Night.” Do you think the choice of the play is significant?
2. Also in the embroidery scene, Henrietta tells Ella that her favorite line in “Hamlet” is “To thine own self be true.” Why do you think this line is significant to the story?
3. Ella chooses to follow Dr. Pesce’s plan to disguise herself as a man and go to medical school and not Matilda’s suggestion to become a midwife. Do you think she was right to listen to the doctor and not his sister?
4. Were there moments that made you thankful for modern medicine?
5. Did you think it was believable that Ella managed to hide her secret for two years?
6. Were you surprised by the revelation that Oli was Jewish?
7. If Ella didn’t leave her home, and or stayed there after her father died, would she become spoiled and overdramatic like Amelia?
8. Did you like the tidbits about real women who contributed to medicine (Agnodice, Anna Manzolini, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu)
9. What twists surprised you?
10. While Ella will be in all Hearts and Sails books, would you be interested in books where she’s not the major character? Or seeing her in a smaller role would disappoint you?