



THE IMPOSTOR

Celeste Bradley, St. Martin's Press 2003

1. A prominent theme in *THE IMPOSTOR* is the way that playing a role can actually allow a previously hidden facet of our personality to surface. Stern, sober Dalton must play both a ridiculous fop and a mischievous thief. In doing so he finds untapped levels of humor and joy within himself. If you could play any role you wished, what would you play? What aspect of yourself do you think would develop from it? (I would like to play "Mindy Anna Jones" and learn how to crack a whip! I have never traveled the world and I have never been tough.)
2. Intellectual, observant Clara must play both a vapid twit and a saucy housemaid. Most women play several roles in a day. How are you a different person at work? With your children? With your friends? When you get pulled over for speeding past the DMV?
3. Before the start of *THE IMPOSTOR*, Clara was swept away in a romantic but unwise wartime marriage. If her first husband had returned from the war, Clara would have had a very different life. At what point did you make a single decision that determined the course of your life? What if you had chosen differently?
4. When "Monty" and "Rose" fall in love, it is because they are more themselves as actors than they have been in their own skins. If being yourself is easier with a stranger in the dark, then does the problem lie in the expectations of our world or within ourselves?
5. Clara loves her disgusting cat to bits. Dalton would rather feed it to the Thames, but he cares for it dutifully. What is your disgusting cat? What is your partner's revolting possession/obsession that you tolerate out of love? (I put up with collections of dolls. You can call them action figures if you want to, but we all know the truth.) (P.S. I love cats.)
6. Although Clara began drawing political cartoons to make money, she soon became a crusader against political corruption. Even after Sir Thorogood was retired, Clara pursued her cause. What is the one cause in which you wish you could affect change? Tell each other about the ways you want to make a difference.
7. By the end of *THE IMPOSTOR*, Dalton wants the Liars to accept him, then realizes they already have. How has lack of acceptance affected your life? Childhood? Work? Uber-competitive suburban mom triathlon of sports, lessons and who gives the best birthday party? (Oops, my damage is showing. I'm thinking of starting a support group for other refugees of the PTA.)