

Marlborough Public Library Adult Book Club

January 14 or 16, 2025

*Expiration Dates* by Rebecca Serle

Questions abridged from:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a7e0c6e32601e918efdbc04/t/660447472d9c2511b38566a1/1711556427503/97423-ExpirationDates+RGG+%281%29.pdf>

1. When we first learn about Daphne's slips of paper, she says, "Something else has always called the shots in my life—call it the universe, fate, the comedic force of timing." How does this set up the conversation about destiny versus choice throughout the novel?
2. In chapter 4, Daphne says, "But I still wanted forever love. I still wanted my perfect mate, my smiling husband. I'd picture the white tulle dress and the lace veil and a man who was kind and attractive and who my parents loved, because why not." How is Daphne's description of her perfect man different at the end of the novel?
3. Hugo is one of the most important people in Daphne's life. How does their relationship change over the course of the novel, and how does Hugo contribute to Daphne's understanding of happiness for herself?
4. There's a major twist in the novel regarding Daphne's health. Why do you think the author decided to introduce the twist where she did, and how does it contribute to the larger message of the novel?
5. In chapter 25, after Hugo, Jake, and Daphne have dinner together, Jake says, "I feel for him, Daphne . . . It's not his fault he's still in love with you." What was your reaction to that scene?
6. Similarly to Daphne, Jake brings his own history and baggage into their relationship. How does Jake's past affect his relationship with Daphne?
7. We discover toward the end of the novel that Hugo wrote Jake's note, starting Daphne and Jake's relationship. Why do you think Hugo did what he did, and how does it speak to the core question of destiny versus choice at the heart of the novel?
8. One of the last lines of the novel reads, "Goodbye, I think, although that is not the right word. What I mean is something else, something that is not possible to convey in a singular expression. Something that is not at all an ending." What do you think Daphne means by this?