

“An Unseemly Love” by Kim Benton

Book club questions

1. As you think about the broad context of the book and the evolution of the storyline, how did it flow or materialize to you?
2. Specific to the voice of the main characters, Meeka and Michael, were they believable to you – why or why not?
3. What scene in the book, if any, did find yourself celebrating their relationship? And the contrary?
4. At the end of the story, did you believe that Meeka and Michael loved each other – and what brought you to that conclusion?
5. What character for good or bad did you find yourself most passionate about and why?
6. Discuss the theme of infidelity. Describe from your perspective the consequences of Michael's actions on the other characters, most specifically Diane?
7. Did your perspective of Meeka and/or Michael change as the story developed – if so, when and what changed for you?
8. What did you think about Nikki and the type of friend she was to Meeka – was her advice and support something that you resonated with?
9. Explore the theme of power dynamics and control in relationships. Was there control portrayed in Meeka and Michael's relationship?

10. What were your initial thoughts during the scene of the engagement party where Michael had his wedding band on and his wife was with him?
11. What do you believe the impact of the peripheral character, Chris the Pastor played? What did you hope it would play?
12. Examine the dynamics between Meeka and Diane. How does their relationship change throughout the story, especially in light of the affair?
13. As a parent, how did you relate to Linda, Meeka's mom's position in terms of her initial support of her daughter? Her feelings about Michael? Her relationship to Diane?
14. How did you perceive the gifts Michael gave to Meeka, such as the Lexus SUV, jewelry, and condo. What do these symbols represent in the context of their relationship?
15. How would you define Michael's posture towards women in general, based on his temper and the physical abuse he demonstrated in the story?
16. Discuss the ending of the story, where Michael proposes to Meeka. Do you find the resolution satisfying? How do you interpret Meeka's acceptance of the proposal?
17. Consider the story from Diane's perspective. How might her experiences and emotions be different from what is presented in Meeka's narrative?