

# Life and Other Complications

## Discussion Questions

1. How has HIV shaped Aly's life?
2. What is the significance of the Ballentine Hotel? In Aly's life? In the novel?
3. Do you see Aly's mother as a villain, a victim or both?
4. Love is demonstrated in several ways throughout the novel. Which portrayal do you feel is the most powerful?
5. What role does painting play in the novel?
6. Who was your favorite character? Why?
7. Aly never refers to the Miller's house as home. Does she have a home? If so, where?
8. Do you feel that Aly's deception was justifiable? Why or why not?
9. We never meet Olivia, or even know her real name. But some have argued that she is one of the most pivotal characters in the story. Do you agree? Why or why not?
10. Author Sarah Aronson describes *Life and Other Complications* as a three stranded bread. For you, what are the three strands, or themes, of the novel?