



# GREAT

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## ABOUT THE BOOK

Naomi Rye usually dreads spending the summer with her socialite mother in East Hampton. This year is no different. She sticks out like a sore thumb among the teenagers who have been summering (a verb only the very rich use) together for years. But Naomi finds herself captivated by her mysterious next-door neighbor, Jacinta. Jacinta has her own reason for drawing close to Naomi—to meet the beautiful and untouchable Delilah Fairweather. But Jacinta’s carefully constructed world is hiding something huge, a secret that could undo everything. And Naomi must decide how far she is willing to be pulled into this web of lies and deception before she is unable to escape.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Great* is based on the classic *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. What similarities and differences do you see between the two? What new themes are brought up through the contemporary adaptation?
2. Naomi describes East Hampton as a “town of traditions” (p.2). How does the setting of this novel influence the characters’ actions?
3. *The Wanted* and its author are extremely popular. What motivates Jacinta to throw lavish parties but keep her identity a secret? Do you agree that her guests wouldn’t care about her if she wasn’t writing about them on her blog?
4. Naomi considers herself an outcast in East Hampton. Do you think others consider Naomi an outcast, too? How does Naomi’s social image change over the summer?
5. Jeff is Naomi’s first kiss and summer boyfriend. At first she is extremely drawn to him, but over time she becomes indifferent to their relationship. Why does Naomi question Jeff’s feelings toward her and the rest of the group?
6. Do people treat Naomi differently because of who her mother is? What role does social class play in the way characters treat each other?
7. After secrets about Jacinta and Naomi’s mom are revealed, Naomi says, “Maybe I actually respected Jacinta more than my mother” (p.242). Is it right for Naomi to judge her mom’s dishonesty more harshly than Jacinta’s? Which character do you respect more?
8. The Beasts and Skags are brought up throughout the novel even though they aren’t in the Hamptons. Why are their characters relevant to the plot? Will Naomi see the Beasts differently after this summer?
9. Delilah and Jacinta’s relationship is considered toxic and obsessive by characters. Naomi says, “I guess love, or whatever they were in, changes a person. Or maybe it just brings out their true nature” (p.169). Do the events at the end of the novel demonstrate the girls’ true natures?
10. What do you think happens to the Hamptons group after Naomi returns to Chicago?