The State of Affairs: Rethinking Infidelity by Esther Perel

A couples therapist and best-selling author describes her findings after spending a decade working with couples whose lives were shattered by infidelity and discusses how individuals can grow and heal after a betrayal, either together or apart.


About the Author: Psychotherapist and New York Times bestselling author Esther Perel is recognized as one of today's most insightful and original voices on modern relationships. Fluent in nine languages, she helms a therapy practice in New York City and serves as an organizational consultant for Fortune 500 companies around the world. Her celebrated TED Talks have garnered more than 20 million views and her international bestseller Mating in Captivity: Unlocking Erotic Intelligence became a global phenomenon translated into 25 languages.

Questions for discussion

1. What did you think of the title of the book? If you would choose to rename it, what you would you choose?
2. Were you okay with the level of vulnerability and openness the book contains?
3. When you think about infidelity, what are the first words, associations, and images that come to mind? (page 4)
4. Where do your sympathies fall – with the jilted, with the unfaithful, with the lover, with the children? Have your responses changed because of events in your life? (page 4)
5. What is fidelity? Can we love more than one person at one? What are your thoughts? (page 13)
6. Did anyof the individuals, couples or situations remind you of yourself or someone you know? How?
7. What did you think of the structure and style of writing?
8. What did you find surprising about the facts introduced in this book?
9. Have any of YOUR views or thoughts changed after reading this book?