

Book club discussion questions for *Faking It*

1. In what ways do we see the effects of Andi's relationships with her father and brothers on her love relationships, choices, and/or motivations? Does her relationship with her mother also play a role in these choices and/or motivations? If so, in what ways?
2. Andi's voice is distinctive throughout the novel, especially since she is the narrator. Where does she seem most reliable? When does she seem to be "faking" parts of her own story? What evidence do you see to support your perception?
3. How does the setting of New York (particularly Manhattan and Long Island) serve as a reflection of Andi and Devin, both together and separately? How does it serve as a background for the action? Could this novel have worked had it been set elsewhere?
4. Lorello examines several themes in *Faking It*, including authenticity of self and self-acceptance. How does Sam exemplify these themes? Are there other characters, places, examples in which this theme is reinforced or revealed?
5. As a professor of rhetoric and composition, Andi teaches Devin basic rhetorical theory. Lorello defines rhetoric as "the art and skill of using language to communicate and/or persuade." How do Andi and Devin use language (speaking, writing) to communicate or persuade? As the author, do you think Lorello has a rhetorical purpose in writing this story? Does Andi?
6. Lorello has been praised for her use of dialogue in her novels. Examine the role of dialogue in *Faking It*. What makes it work so well? In what ways does it reveal the characters of Andi and Devin (and their relationship), advance the story, or demonstrate rhetoric in action?
7. The story unfolds not only through narration, plot, and dialogue, but also through other kinds of text, such as journal entries, freewriting, essays, and email exchanges. Why might Lorello include these kinds of texts? What function(s) do they serve?
8. Why is it difficult to believe Devin's claim that all bodies are beautiful? Do you think he persuaded Andi to agree? If so, how? If not, why?
9. Discuss the parallels between sex and writing. What does each have in common? In what ways do they differ?
10. Do you think people "fake" certain parts of their daily lives? If so, give examples and reasons.
11. Given how afraid Andi was to step outside of her comfort zone, why do you think she contacted Devin and ultimately proposed the arrangement? Why do you think Devin accepted?

12. “There’s always something else we can do,” I said, “if only we weren’t so busy listening to other people’s voices.” What does Andi mean?
13. When Andi tells Devin to “start being David,” what does she mean? Why do you think Devin “became” David? When did he start?
14. “Devin’s the guy you sleep with. Sam’s the guy you have breakfast with.” What does Maggie mean?
15. Why does Andi ultimately choose Sam over Devin? In what ways was this the right choice? And in what ways might this have not been a good choice for Andi at this time in her life? What might have happened had she chosen Devin?