

Christine Kole MacLean

1. What is the “it” in the title *How It’s Done*?

2. How has Grace’s relationship with her father changed since her childhood? Why?

3. How would you describe Michael? How would you describe Grace?

4. Why did Grace like Michael?

5. Why did Michael like Grace?

6. When Michael said, “There is something I should tell you, though. I’ve been wanting to tell you, but I was afraid you wouldn’t believe me or that it would frighten you and you’d end it,” what did you think he was going to tell Grace? Why did Grace assume it was something bad? Do you think Michael meant it when he said, “I’m in love with you” to Grace? (Pages 83-84)

7. Why do you think Michael asked Grace to marry him?

8. What did you think of Grace’s way of telling her father that she was going to keep seeing Michael (and that she planned to marry him)? What other ways she could have told him or convinced him? What do you think she would have told her father about the relationship if Michael had not asked her to marry him?

9. What does Rachelle, Michael's ex-girlfriend, mean when she says to Grace, "...it could be that you're asking the wrong question"? (Page 220)
How are Grace's father and Michael the same or different? What about Grace and her mother?

10. What function do Liv and Tory play in Grace's story? Can you think of characters from other books or stories who play similar roles?

11. How did things change once Grace found out about her father's affair?

12. How do you think the story would have ended if Grace were pregnant?

13. Do you think Grace regretted her decision not to help Liv cheat to get the scholarship? Why? Do you agree with Liv when she says to Grace, "...in your charmed life you can afford to be all moral and ethical and everything, but you know what? I don't have that luxury" (pg 288)?

14. What do you think happened to Liv?

15. What is the difference between saying "yes" to yourself and saying "no" to others?

16. Reread the prologue. What's happening in this scene? Why do you think Grace wants to "bring on that flash of longing" (pg 3)?

17. Do you think Grace could have “figured everything out differently” (pg 4)? What would change in the story for her to be more true to herself?

18. Grace says, “If you’re lucky, maybe there’s someone who can help you [be your own person]...The funny thing is, that person is never who you think it’s going to be. It’s never who you want it to be” (pg 4). Who do you think that person (or people) is/are in Grace’s life?

19. If you had to designate one of the characters as the villain of this story, who would it be? Why?

20. The sexual act of “pulling out” occurs several times in this book, and the working title of the book was Pulling Out. How is “pulling out” important in this story, sexually or otherwise?
