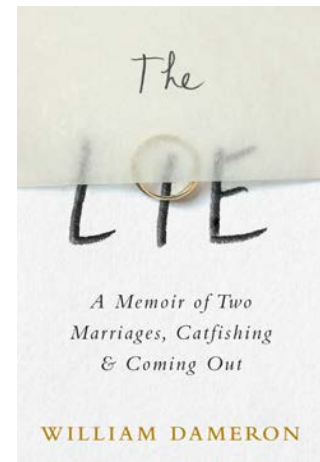
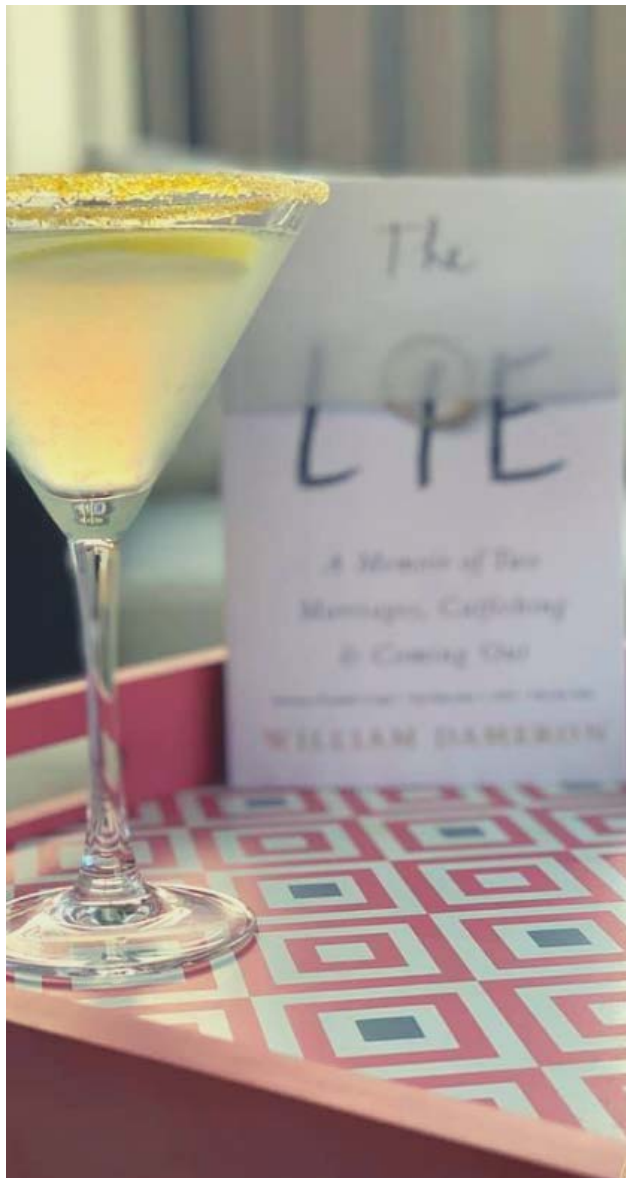


Discussion Questions for *The LIE: A Memoir of Two Marriages, Catfishing & Coming Out*,
by William Dameron

1. “The LIE,” begins with a prologue about how Bill’s picture was stolen and used to “catfish” a woman who had a four-year online relationship with her catfisher. Why do you think people would have a long-term relationship with someone they had never met? Why do you think people would pretend to be someone they are not?
2. Bill and his wife were married for more than twenty years. What factors caused him to stay in the marriage for so long? Do you think Katherine knew her husband’s secret before she asked him in the Walmart parking lot?
3. Linda and Debra, the “middle-aged lesbians with two small non-shedding dogs,” model a loving and caring relationship for Bill. They introduce him to the memory of another Bill they loved who died from AIDS. Bill wonders, “I listened to the story and couldn’t help but wonder if that Bill could have been me if my life had taken a different turn.” Do you think that chance plays a role in where we end up in life, or is it mostly based on action/inaction? Are there turning points in your life that played a pivotal role in where you are now?
4. How does Bill’s relationship with his mother change throughout his life?
5. Enzo says to Bill, “You know, Billy, when you love someone, in a way, you want to become them.” What do you think he means by this statement? Why do you think he said this to Bill? Are there traits of people you love that have become a part of you?
6. Bill’s story weaves through time, often dipping into the past and the present in the same chapter. Why do you think he presented it this way? Does it work?
7. There are many lies in Bill’s memoir. At what point do you think that his lie about hiding his sexuality had gone too far? At what point do you think he understood this?
8. In the chapter titled, *264 Haircuts*, the author uses a haircut as an objective correlative, which is a literary technique that employs the use of an object or action to carry the weight of emotion. What does the haircut represent? Are there other objective correlatives in the book that you noticed?
9. After he came out, Bill is befriended by an assortment of people, Linda and Debra, Hans and Gavin and the men in his “Coming out Later in Life” support group. Who is your favorite character? What was it you liked about them?
10. Memoirs generally fall into the categories listed below. What type of memoir would you classify “The LIE?” Could it be more than one?
 - a. Childhood, Adolescent, and Coming of Age Memoirs.
 - b. Life Experience Memoirs.
 - c. Relationships.
 - d. Cultural/Ethnic/Sexuality Memoirs.
 - e. Food Memoirs.
 - f. Travel Memoirs.
 - g. Survivor Memoirs.
 - h. Addiction and Compulsion Memoirs.
11. Part of the subtitle of “The LIE,” is “A Memoir of Two Marriages.” Why do you think this subtitle was chosen?



12. "I learned there was more than one [closet] door to open: there were five, ten a hundred and just when I thought I'd reached the last one, another appeared." What does Bill mean by this statement?



THE LIE-BATION COCKTAIL

Ingredients

Vodka
White Cranberry Juice
Triple Sec
Lemon
Gold Rimming Sugar (Optional)

Directions

Slice lemon into rings. Add ice to cocktail shaker. Pour in:
two parts vodka
two parts white cranberry juice
one part triple sec
Add lemon juice. Shake until well combined. Strain into martini glasses. Add lemon ring.

Optional: wipe lemon around edge of glass and dip into gold rimming sugar before pouring cocktail.