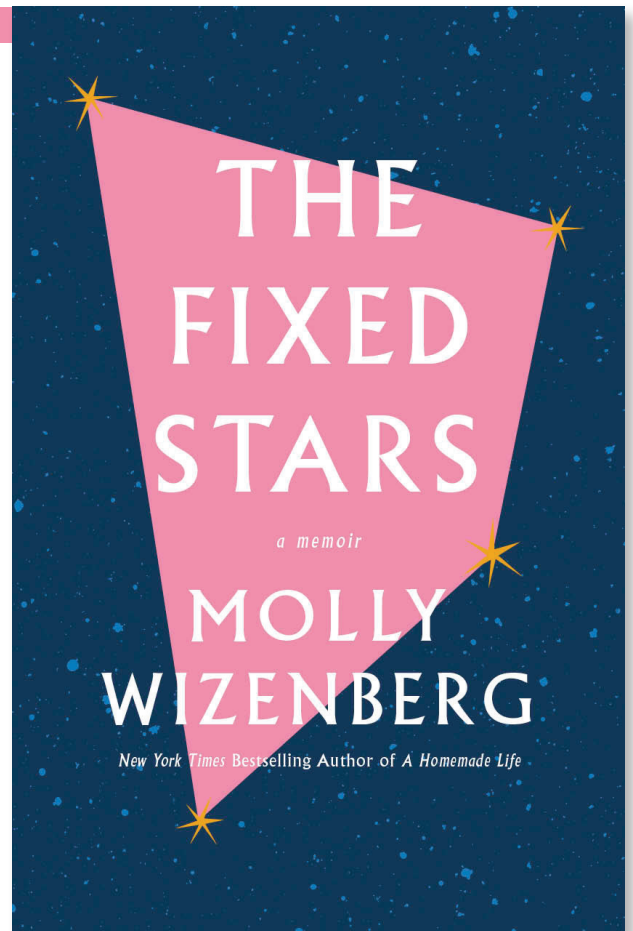


## INTRODUCTION

At age 36, while serving on a jury, author Molly Wizenberg found herself drawn to a female attorney she hardly knew. Married to a man for nearly a decade and mother to a toddler, Wizenberg tried to return to her life as she knew it, but something inside her had changed irrevocably. Instead, she would discover that the trajectory of our lives is rarely as smooth or as logical as we'd like to believe. *The Fixed Stars* is a taut, electrifying memoir exploring timely and timeless questions about desire, identity, and the limits and possibilities of family.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In *The Fixed Stars*, we see Molly Wizenberg's life go through a process of "order-disorder-reorder," all stemming from her experience at jury duty. Was there a time in your life when something extraordinary came out of something ordinary?
2. By opening her marriage and deciding to forge her own identity, Molly decides to live a life for herself, instead of one defined by norms. In what ways have you broken social norms to fit a truer version of yourself?
3. How does *The Fixed Stars* compare with other books you've read that portray women experiencing major life changes—in family, in sexuality—after they're supposed to be "settled"?
4. How did the format of *The Fixed Stars*, in its small tidbits and long stories combined, affect your experience of the story?
5. How do you think Molly's childhood contributed to her understanding of sexuality and attraction?
6. What do you think about Molly's fear toward calling her sexuality a "choice"? Have you ever experienced a situation in which "change, choice, and control are not the same thing" made sense for you?



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7. How do you view Brandon's role in the story?
8. There are lots of references throughout the book to other works of art, literature, and pop culture. Were there any that especially helped you understand Molly's experience?
9. What does the title *The Fixed Stars* mean for you regarding Molly's story?
10. What questions would you ask Molly if you had the chance to ask her anything?

Guide by Esther Liann Ramirez