

Spoiler Alert Discussion Questions

1. April and Marcus both learn to set boundaries with their parents after years of struggling with those relationships. What do you think about how each of them handled that process? When and how is it okay to set boundaries with family—or become entirely estranged from family members?
2. Have you ever been a serious fan of a television show, movie, book, or musical group? If so, how did you express your enthusiasm (e.g., buying merchandise, attending conventions, cosplaying, writing fanfiction, creating fanvids, etc.)?
3. In *Spoiler Alert*, both April and Marcus reveal different versions of themselves, depending on the audience and context (at work, online, with families, and so on). To what extent does their happy ending require them to merge those disparate identities, and why? Do you think that process is important for real-life happiness?
4. Initially, April worries she'll be judged at work for being part of the *Gods of the Gates* fandom, and Marcus's parents judge him for starring in what they consider lowbrow shows and movies. How often *do* people get judged for their pop culture interests, and why do you think such judgments get made? Are those judgments ever fair or warranted?
5. How do April and Marcus's professions influence how they see the world and engage with others? And how did their personalities and personal history help determine their choice of work?
6. *Spoiler Alert* gives us Aeneas's Sad Boner Seek, Aeneas's Angry Boner Week, Aeneas's Confused Boner Week, and Aeneas's Inconvenient Boner week. What would be your own fandom boner week theme?
7. Author/educator Ashley C. Ford has said that for her, freedom is "about being on my own side and never betraying myself." Do you think that applies to Marcus and April? If so, how?
8. April describes herself as fat, noting that she uses the term as a neutral descriptor, rather than as an insult or pejorative. How does that make you feel? Do you prefer other terms instead? If so, why?
9. What, if anything, surprised you the most about this book?
10. Who do you most want to read this book? Why?
11. To what extent did you believe in the story's happy ending?
12. In different ways, both April and Marcus are judged and found wanting by their families. How does that affect their other interpersonal relationships?

13. How does the novel ask us to rethink what we say about fatness and health, especially to fat friends, significant others, and family members?

14. How do the excerpts from fanfic and scripts enhance the primary story or add to the reading experience?

15. The extra bits between the chapters are called interstitials. Did you have a favorite? If so, which one, and why is it your favorite?

16. In *Spoiler Alert*, what are the dangers of interacting with others online? What are the opportunities and joys?

17. How has Marcus's dyslexia influenced his life, and what ways has he found to work around his learning disorder? How much of a stigma about learning disorders still exists, do you think?

18. What information is appropriate to hold back in a new relationship, and at what point is it necessary to disclose that information? How could April and Marcus have navigated these issues differently?