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BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

1. Mildenhall has said '...everything in the near future world of The Mother Fault has already happened elsewhere.' How far away does the world of the book feel to you?
2. Given the startling rate of change we are currently living through, how can writers speculate about the near future without seeming out of date on publication? Mildenhall wrote this book before the pandemic and published it during, does that change the way it is read?
3. '*Unprecedented, again. The word has lost its meaning.*' How do we speak about a world where every year brings with it circumstances we have never seen before?
4. Ben believes he is doing something for the greater good. Is his sacrifice worth it?
5. Mim willingly signed up for the tracking system to keep her family safe. Was she right to sign up in the first place? Was she right to ask Heidi to remove the chips?



6. The epigraph - '...but no one bothered to read the terms and conditions' - is from a Netflix documentary - *The Great Hack* exploring the Facebook-Cambridge Analytica data scandal. Do you always read the terms and conditions? Do we need to take more personal responsibility for what we sign up for?
7. Writer, Angela Savage said 'I felt so close to Mim, I wanted alternately to shout at her and cheer her on.' Did you want to shout at Mim? When? Why?
8. Nick was Mim's first love. Does this change the way you feel about her affair with him? Who, if anyone, does Mim betray in the novel?
9. Mildenhall crewed aboard a yacht as part of her research for the novel. Does a writer need to experience what they write about? As a reader, do you think you can tell?
10. '*I will feel like this forever.*' Mim experiences motherhood as terrifying and boring as well as pleasurable. Is this a common portrayal of motherhood? A realistic one? If relevant, how does Mim's experience of parenthood align with your own experiences?