

Small Group Discussion of *Better*, “Naked” (p. 73-83)

Directions: With the help of your groupmates, answer the following questions as fully as you can.

1. At the start of this chapter, Atul Gawande describes a medical examination scene in the film, *Kandahar* (p. 73-74). Briefly summarize the circumstances of this scene. Then, explain: Without Atul Gawande’s discussion in this chapter, and just looking at this scene on its own, how are readers likely to understand this medical examination scene? Why are they likely to understand this scene in this way?

2. Following his initial example from *Kandahar*, Atul Gawande presents actual examples from several different medical practices around the world. One-by-one, briefly summarize each of these different practices, and explain what each example seems to indicate. Then, on your own, try to speculate: What does each example seem to say about how the people of each situation look at the idea of physical intimacy and privacy.

3. In the two full paragraphs on page 78, Gawande tries to sum up the complicated American perspective on intimate examinations of patients. Read through these two paragraphs again, then explain what these American standards of intimacy seem to be. Then go on. What do you think? How real are the concerns here? In a society moving toward equality, why do the concerns that Gawande talks about worry us?

4. On page 80, Atul Gawande brings up the movie *Kandahar* once again. In fact, it seems that he’s finally making his real point about this movie here. In your own words, explain: What is Gawande’s real point about the scene from the movie? Then, look at Gawande’s short line on page 83, “Choices must be made.” What do you think about this concluding line in light of the ideas you’ve read about in *Better* so far? Is it an especially important idea? Why or why not?