

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions

A Gentleman in Moscow Discussion Questions: A Comprehensive Guide

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Summary: This guide provides a comprehensive set of discussion questions for Amor Towles's *A Gentleman in Moscow*, categorized by theme and complexity. It offers best practices for leading effective discussions, highlighting common pitfalls to avoid. The guide aims to enrich the reader's understanding of the novel's intricate plot, multifaceted characters, and enduring themes, thereby facilitating a deeper appreciation of Towles's literary artistry. It includes frequently asked questions and suggestions for further reading.

I. Understanding the Novel: Essential Discussion Questions for A Gentleman in Moscow

Before embarking on a deeper exploration of the novel's themes, it's crucial to establish a common understanding of the plot and characters. These initial *a gentleman in moscow* discussion questions lay the groundwork for more nuanced conversations:

Plot and Setting: Describe the historical context of the novel. How does the setting of the Hotel Metropol influence the story and its characters? What are the most significant events in Count Alexander Rostov's life within the hotel's confines? Discuss the significance of the changing political landscape and how it impacts the Count's life.

Character Development: Analyze the character arc of Count Alexander Rostov. How does he change throughout the novel? What are his strengths and weaknesses? Discuss the relationships between the Count and other significant characters, such as Nina, Sofia, and the various hotel staff members. How do these relationships shape his life and perspectives? Consider the portrayal of other characters – what are their motivations and how do they contribute to the overall narrative?

Narrative Structure: Discuss Towles's narrative style. How effective is the use of flashbacks and foreshadowing? How does the non-linear structure contribute to the overall impact of the story? Examine the significance of the different time periods depicted in the novel.

II. Exploring Key Themes: Deeper A Gentleman in Moscow Discussion Questions

Once a basic understanding of the plot and characters is established, the discussion can delve into the novel's richer thematic layers. These a gentleman in moscow discussion questions encourage critical thinking and analysis:

Exile and Confinement: How does the Count's confinement to the attic room of the hotel affect his perspective on life, freedom, and happiness? What does the novel suggest about the nature of exile, both physical and emotional? Does the Count truly find freedom within his confinement?

Identity and Self-Discovery: Discuss the Count's journey of self-discovery. How does he redefine his identity and purpose in the face of adversity? How do his experiences shape his understanding of himself and his place in the world?

Love and Loss: Analyze the various relationships in the novel, focusing on the themes of love, loss, and connection. How do these relationships impact the Count's life and outlook?

Faith and Spirituality: How is faith presented in the novel? Discuss the role of religion and spirituality in the Count's life and in the lives of other characters. Explore the different interpretations of faith shown throughout the novel.

Resilience and Adaptation: How does the Count demonstrate resilience and adaptability in the face of challenging circumstances? What strategies does he employ to cope with change and adversity? Consider the novel's message about the human capacity for resilience.

Social Change and Revolution: The novel spans several decades of significant political and social upheaval. How does Towles depict these events? How do these historical shifts impact the characters and their lives? What is the novel's comment on societal change and its impact on individuals?

III. Best Practices and Common Pitfalls

Best Practices:

Create a safe and inclusive space: Ensure all participants feel comfortable sharing their opinions and interpretations.

Encourage active listening: Promote respectful dialogue and thoughtful responses.

Focus on interpretation, not "correct" answers: There is no single "correct" interpretation of the novel.

Use open-ended questions: Avoid questions that can be answered with a simple "yes" or "no."

Connect personal experiences: Encourage participants to relate the novel's themes to their own lives and experiences.

Common Pitfalls:

Dominating the conversation: Ensure everyone has an opportunity to participate.

Interrupting or dismissing others' opinions: Create a culture of mutual respect and understanding.

Focusing solely on plot summary: Encourage deeper analysis and interpretation of themes.

Ignoring diverse perspectives: Recognize and appreciate the multifaceted nature of the novel.

Conclusion

A Gentleman in Moscow offers a rich tapestry of themes and characters ripe for discussion. By utilizing these a gentleman in moscow discussion questions and employing best practices, readers can engage in enriching conversations that illuminate the novel's enduring power and relevance. This guide provides a foundation for a deeper understanding of Towles's masterful storytelling, prompting reflection on themes of resilience, identity, and the enduring human spirit in the face of adversity.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the main theme of A Gentleman in Moscow? The novel explores multiple interconnected themes, including exile, resilience, adaptation, self-discovery, love, loss, and faith.
1. Who are the main characters in A Gentleman in Moscow? The main character is Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov, but the novel features a wide cast of supporting characters who contribute significantly to the narrative.
1. What is the setting of A Gentleman in Moscow? The primary setting is the Hotel Metropol in Moscow, during a period of significant political and social change.

1. What is the significance of the hotel in the novel? The hotel serves as a microcosm of Russian society and history, reflecting the broader political and social changes unfolding outside its walls.
1. What is the historical context of the novel? The novel is set against the backdrop of the Russian Revolution and the subsequent Soviet era.
1. How does the novel end? The ending is open to interpretation, leaving the reader to ponder the Count's future and the enduring power of hope and resilience.
1. What makes *A Gentleman in Moscow* unique? The novel's unique blend of historical fiction, character-driven narrative, and insightful exploration of universal themes sets it apart.
1. Is *A Gentleman in Moscow* a good book for book clubs? Yes, the novel's rich themes and engaging characters make it ideal for stimulating book club discussions.
1. Where can I find more information about Amor Towles? You can find information about the author on his website and through various literary publications and interviews.

Related Articles:

1. Analyzing the Character Arc of Count Alexander Rostov in *A Gentleman in Moscow*: This article provides an in-depth analysis of the Count's transformation throughout the novel.
1. The Role of Setting in *A Gentleman in Moscow*: This article explores the significance of the Hotel Metropol and its impact on the narrative.

1. Themes of Exile and Confinement in A Gentleman in Moscow: A focused exploration of the novel's depiction of exile and its impact on the protagonist.

1. Love and Loss in A Gentleman in Moscow: A Thematic Analysis: An analysis of the different relationships in the novel and their impact on the characters.

1. Faith and Spirituality in A Gentleman in Moscow: This article examines the different interpretations of faith presented in the novel.

1. Comparing and Contrasting A Gentleman in Moscow with other works by Amor Towles: An exploration of the author's literary style and recurring themes.

1. Historical Accuracy in A Gentleman in Moscow: An assessment of the novel's portrayal of historical events and its adherence to historical fact.

1. The Narrative Structure of A Gentleman in Moscow: This article analyzes the novel's non-linear narrative and its impact on the reader's experience.

1. Critical Reception and Reviews of A Gentleman in Moscow: A compilation of critical opinions and reviews of the novel from various literary sources.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: A Gentleman in Moscow Amor Towles, 2017-01-09 The mega-bestseller with more than 2 million readers Soon to be a Showtime/Paramount+ series starring Ewan McGregor as Count Alexander Rostov From the number one New York Times-bestselling author of The Lincoln Highway and Rules of Civility, a beautifully transporting novel about a man who is ordered to spend the rest of his life inside a luxury hotel 'A wonderful book' - Tana French 'This novel is astonishing, uplifting and wise. Don't miss it' - Chris Cleave 'No historical novel this year was more witty, insightful or original' - Sunday Times, Books of the Year '[A] supremely uplifting novel ... It's elegant, witty and delightful - much like the Count himself.' - Mail on Sunday, Books of the Year 'Charming ... shows that not all books about Russian aristocrats have to be full of doom and nihilism' - The Times, Books of the Year On 21 June 1922,

Count Alexander Rostov - recipient of the Order of Saint Andrew, member of the Jockey Club, Master of the Hunt - is escorted out of the Kremlin, across Red Square and through the elegant revolving doors of the Hotel Metropol. Deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, the Count has been sentenced to house arrest indefinitely. But instead of his usual suite, he must now live in an attic room while Russia undergoes decades of tumultuous upheaval. Can a life without luxury be the richest of all? A BOOK OF THE DECADE, 2010-2020 (INDEPENDENT) THE TIMES BOOK OF THE YEAR 2017 A SUNDAY TIMES BOOK OF THE YEAR 2017 A MAIL ON SUNDAY BOOK OF THE YEAR 2017 A DAILY EXPRESS BOOK OF THE YEAR 2017 AN IRISH TIMES BOOK OF THE YEAR 2017 ONE OF BARACK OBAMA'S BEST BOOKS OF 2017 ONE OF BILL GATES'S SUMMER READS OF 2019 NOMINATED FOR THE 2018 INDEPENDENT BOOKSELLERS WEEK AWARD

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: The Lincoln Highway Amor Towles, 2021-10-05 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER More than ONE MILLION copies sold A TODAY Show Read with Jenna Book Club Pick A New York Times Notable Book, and Chosen by Oprah Daily, Time, NPR, The Washington Post, Bill Gates and Barack Obama as a Best Book of the Year "Wise and wildly entertaining . . . permeated with light, wit, youth." —The New York Times Book Review "A classic that we will read for years to come." —Jenna Bush Hager, Read with Jenna book club "Fantastic. Set in 1954, Towles uses the story of two brothers to show that our personal journeys are never as linear or predictable as we might hope." —Bill Gates "A real joyride . . . elegantly constructed and compulsively readable." —NPR The bestselling author of *A Gentleman in Moscow* and *Rules of Civility* and master of absorbing, sophisticated fiction returns with a stylish and propulsive novel set in 1950s America In June, 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has just served fifteen months for involuntary manslaughter. His mother long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed upon by the bank, Emmett's intention is to pick up his eight-year-old brother, Billy, and head to California where they can start their lives anew. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden's car. Together, they have hatched an altogether different plan for Emmett's future, one that will take them all on a fateful journey in the opposite direction—to the City of New York. Spanning just ten days and told from multiple points of view, Towles's third novel will satisfy fans of his multi-layered literary styling while providing them an array of new and richly imagined settings, characters, and themes. "Once again, I was wowed by Towles's writing—especially because *The Lincoln Highway* is so different from *A Gentleman in Moscow* in terms of setting, plot, and themes. Towles is not a one-trick pony. Like all the best storytellers, he has range. He takes inspiration from famous hero's journeys, including *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, *Hamlet*, *Huckleberry Finn*, and *Of Mice and Men*. He seems to be saying that our personal journeys are never as linear or predictable as an interstate highway. But, he suggests, when something (or someone) tries to steer us off course, it is possible to take the wheel." - Bill Gates

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: *Rules of Civility* Amor Towles, 2012-06-26 From the #1 New York Times-bestselling author of *The Lincoln Highway* and *A Gentleman in Moscow*, a "sharply stylish" (Boston Globe) book about a young woman in post-Depression era New York who suddenly finds herself thrust into high society—now with over one million readers worldwide On the last night of 1937, twenty-five-year-old Katey Kontent is in a second-rate Greenwich Village jazz bar when Tinker Grey, a handsome banker, happens to sit down at the neighboring table. This chance encounter and its startling consequences propel Katey on a year-long journey into the upper echelons of New York society—where she will have little to rely upon other than a bracing wit and her own brand of cool nerve. With its sparkling depiction of New York's social strata, its intricate imagery and themes, and its immensely appealing characters, *Rules of Civility* won the hearts of readers and critics alike.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: *The Mayakovsky Tapes* Robert Littell, 2016-11-22 In March 1953, four women meet in Room 408 of Moscow's deluxe Hotel Metropol. They have gathered to reminisce about Vladimir Mayakovsky, the poet who in death had become a

national idol of Soviet Russia. In life, however, he was a much more complicated figure. The ladies, each of whom could claim to have been a muse to the poet, loved or loathed Mayakovsky in the course of his life, and as they piece together their conflicting memories of him, a portrait of the artist as a young idealist emerges. From his early years as a leader of the Futurist movement to his work as a propagandist for the Revolution and on to the censorship battles that turned him against the state (and, more ominously, the state against him), their recollections reveal Mayakovsky as a passionate, complex, sexually obsessed creature trapped in the epicenter of history, struggling to hold onto his ideals in the face of a revolution betrayed. Written by Robert Littell, whom The Washington Post called "one of the most talented, most original voices in American fiction today, period," *The Mayakovsky Tapes* is an ambitious, impressive novel that brings to life the tumultuous Stalinist era and the predicament of the artists ensnared in it.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: Author In Progress Therese Walsh, 2016-11-01 Empower Your Writing Through Craft and Community! Writing can be a lonely profession plagued by blind stumbles, writer's block, and despair--but it doesn't have to be. Written by members of the popular Writer Unboxed website, *Author in Progress* is filled with practical, candid essays to help you reach the next rung on the publishing ladder. By tracking your creative journey from first draft to completion and beyond, you can improve your craft, find your community, and overcome the mental barriers that stand in the way of success. *Author in Progress* is the perfect no-nonsense guide for excelling at every step of the novel-writing process, from setting goals, researching, and drafting to giving and receiving critiques, polishing prose, and seeking publication. You'll love *Author in Progress* if... • You're an aspiring novelist working on your first book. • You're an experienced veteran looking for ways to enhance your career and connect with your writing community. • You've finished your first draft and want to know the next steps. • You're seeking clear, effective advice about publication—from professionals who are down in the trenches every day. What's Inside *Author in Progress* features: • More than 50 essays from best-selling authors, editors, and industry leaders on a variety of writing and publishing topics. • Advice on writing first drafts, conducting research, building and fostering community, seeking critique, revising, and getting published. • An encouraging approach to the writing and publishing process, from authors who've walked this path.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: The Lost Hours Karen White, 2009-04-07 The New York Times bestselling author of the Tradd Street novels delivers a gripping tale of family, fate, and forgiveness. When Piper Mills was twelve, she helped her grandfather bury a box that belonged to her grandmother in the backyard. For twelve years, it remained untouched. Now a near fatal riding accident has shattered Piper's dreams of Olympic glory. After her grandfather's death, she inherits the house and all its secrets, including a key to a room that doesn't exist—or does it? And after her grandmother is sent away to a nursing home, she remembers the box buried in the backyard. In it are torn pages from a scrapbook, a charm necklace—and a newspaper article from 1939 about the body of an infant found floating in the Savannah River. The necklace's charms tell the story of three friends during the 1930s— each charm added during the three months each friend had the necklace and recorded her life in the scrapbook. Piper always dismissed her grandmother as not having had a story to tell. And now, too late, Piper finds she might have been wrong.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: Eve in Hollywood Amor Towles, 2013-06-25 Six interlinked short stories that follow Evelyn Ross - the character from Amor Towles's bestselling novel *Rules of Civility* - to Hollywood in 1938. 'Impossibly glamorous' The Times 'Achingly stylish' Guardian Near the end of *RULES OF CIVILITY*, the fiercely independent Evelyn Ross boards a train from New York to Chicago to visit her parents, but never disembarks. Six months later, she appears in a photograph in a gossip magazine exiting the Tropicana Club on Sunset Boulevard on the arm of Olivia de Havilland. In this chain of six richly detailed and atmospheric stories, each told from a different perspective, Towles unfolds the events that take Eve to the heart of old Hollywood. Beginning in the dining car of the Golden State Limited in September 1938, we follow Eve to the elegant rooms of the Beverly Hills Hotel, the fabled tables of Antonio's, the amusement parks on the

Santa Monica piers, the afro-Cuban dance clubs off Central Avenue, and ultimately the set of *Gone with the Wind*. With the glamour and grit of the studio system's golden age as a backdrop, Towles introduces in each story a memorable new character whose fate may well be altered by their encounter with Eve. But in following the thread of these varied encounters, we also watch as Eve forges a new and unexpected life for herself in late 1930s Los Angeles.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: *Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons* Lorna Landvik, 2004-02-03 "A lively story as delectable as a five-pound box of chocolates . . . a thoroughly engaging chronicle of friendship and the substantive place it holds in women's lives."—Anne D. LeClaire, author of *Leaving Eden* The women of Freesia Court are convinced that there is nothing good coffee, delicious desserts, and a strong shoulder can't fix. Laughter is the glue that holds them together—the foundation of a book group they call AHEB (Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons), an unofficial "club" that becomes much more. It becomes a lifeline. Holding on through forty eventful years, there's Faith, a lonely mother of twins who harbors a terrible secret that has condemned her to living a lie; big, beautiful Audrey, the resident sex queen who knows that with good posture and an attitude you can get away with anything; Merit, the doctor's shy wife with the face of an angel and the private hell of an abusive husband; Kari, a wise woman with a wonderful laugh who knows that the greatest gifts appear after life's fiercest storms; and finally, Slip, a tiny spitfire of a woman who isn't afraid to look trouble straight in the eye. This stalwart group of friends depicts a special slice of American life, of stay-at-home days and new careers, of children and grandchildren, of bold beginnings and second chances, in which the power of forgiveness, understanding, and the perfectly timed giggle fit is the CPR that mends broken hearts and shattered dreams. "It is impossible not to get caught up in the lives of the book group members. . . . Landvik's gift lies in bringing these familiar women to life with insight and humor."—The Denver Post "A guilty pleasure . . . This light, snappy read may be [Landvik's] best yet."—Midwest Living

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: *In the Shadow of the Ivory Tower* Davarian L. Baldwin, 2021-03-30 Across America, universities have become big businesses—and our cities their company towns. But there is a cost to those who live in their shadow. Urban universities play an outsized role in America's cities. They bring diverse ideas and people together and they generate new innovations. But they also gentrify neighborhoods and exacerbate housing inequality in an effort to enrich their campuses and attract students. They maintain private police forces that target the Black and Latinx neighborhoods nearby. They become the primary employers, dictating labor practices and suppressing wages. *In the Shadow of the Ivory Tower* takes readers from Hartford to Chicago and from Phoenix to Manhattan, revealing the increasingly parasitic relationship between universities and our cities. Through eye-opening conversations with city leaders, low-wage workers tending to students' needs, and local activists fighting encroachment, scholar Davarian L. Baldwin makes clear who benefits from unchecked university power—and who is made vulnerable. *In the Shadow of the Ivory Tower* is a wake-up call to the reality that higher education is no longer the ubiquitous public good it was once thought to be. But as Baldwin shows, there is an alternative vision for urban life, one that necessitates a more equitable relationship between our cities and our universities.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: *People of the Book* Geraldine Brooks, 2008-01-01 View our feature on Geraldine Brooks's *People of the Book*. From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *March*, the journey of a rare illuminated manuscript through centuries of exile and war In 1996, Hanna Heath, an Australian rare-book expert, is offered the job of a lifetime: analysis and conservation of the famed Sarajevo Haggadah, which has been rescued from Serb shelling during the Bosnian war. Priceless and beautiful, the book is one of the earliest Jewish volumes ever to be illuminated with images. When Hanna, a caustic loner with a passion for her work, discovers a series of tiny artifacts in its ancient binding—an insect wing fragment, wine stains, salt crystals, a white hair—she begins to unlock the book's mysteries. The reader is ushered into an exquisitely detailed and atmospheric past, tracing the book's journey from its salvation back to its creation. In Bosnia during World War II, a Muslim risks his life to protect it from the Nazis. In the

hedonistic salons of fin-de-siècle Vienna, the book becomes a pawn in the struggle against the city's rising anti-Semitism. In inquisition-era Venice, a Catholic priest saves it from burning. In Barcelona in 1492, the scribe who wrote the text sees his family destroyed by the agonies of enforced exile. And in Seville in 1480, the reason for the Haggadah's extraordinary illuminations is finally disclosed. Hanna's investigation unexpectedly plunges her into the intrigues of fine art forgers and ultra-nationalist fanatics. Her experiences will test her belief in herself and the man she has come to love. Inspired by a true story, *People of the Book* is at once a novel of sweeping historical grandeur and intimate emotional intensity, an ambitious, electrifying work by an acclaimed and beloved author.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: *How to Live* Sarah Bakewell, 2010-10-19 Winner of the 2010 National Book Critics Circle Award for Biography *How to get along with people, how to deal with violence, how to adjust to losing someone you love—such questions arise in most people's lives. They are all versions of a bigger question: how do you live? How do you do the good or honorable thing, while flourishing and feeling happy? This question obsessed Renaissance writers, none more than Michel Eyquem de Montaigne, perhaps the first truly modern individual. A nobleman, public official and wine-grower, he wrote free-roaming explorations of his thought and experience, unlike anything written before. He called them "essays," meaning "attempts" or "tries." Into them, he put whatever was in his head: his tastes in wine and food, his childhood memories, the way his dog's ears twitched when it was dreaming, as well as the appalling events of the religious civil wars raging around him. The Essays was an instant bestseller and, over four hundred years later, Montaigne's honesty and charm still draw people to him. Readers come in search of companionship, wisdom and entertainment—and in search of themselves. This book, a spirited and singular biography, relates the story of his life by way of the questions he posed and the answers he explored. It traces his bizarre upbringing, youthful career and sexual adventures, his travels, and his friendships with the scholar and poet Étienne de La Boétie and with his adopted "daughter," Marie de Gournay. And we also meet his readers—who for centuries have found in Montaigne an inexhaustible source of answers to the haunting question, "how to live?"*

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: *If I Disappear* Eliza Jane Brazier, 2021 This new novel has more twists and fakeouts than an episode of *Serial*. --Rolling Stone An eerie, twisted thriller sure to shake up the most seasoned true crime die-hard. --Harper's Bazaar A Most Anticipated Book of 2021 by Rolling Stone - CNN - E! Online - Buzzfeed - New York Post - Popsugar - Woman's Day - Crime Reads - Hello Giggles When her favorite true crime podcast host goes missing, an adrift young woman sets out to investigate and plunges headfirst into the wild backcountry of Northern California and her own dangerous obsession. Sera loves true crime podcasts. They give her a sense of control in a world where women just like her disappear daily. She's sure they are preparing her for something. So when Rachel, her favorite podcast host, goes missing, Sera knows it's time to act. Rachel has always taught her to trust her instincts. Sera follows the clues hidden in the episodes to an isolated ranch outside Rachel's small hometown to begin her search. She's convinced her investigation will make Rachel so proud. But the more Sera digs into this unfamiliar world, the more off things start to feel. Because Rachel is not the first woman to vanish from the ranch, and she won't be the last... Rachel did try to warn her.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: *The King's English* Pb Betsy Burton, 2006-08-09 Betsy Burton, one of the owners of The King's English Bookshop in Salt Lake City, Utah, shares anecdotes from throughout the history of the store, discussing employees, author visits, and the joys and challenges of running an independent bookstore, and including reading lists in a range of subject areas.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: *When Life Gives You Lululemons* Lauren Weisberger, 2019-05-07 "The Devil Wears Prada's Emily Charlton gets the spin-off she deserves" (Cosmopolitan) in the months-long New York Times bestseller from Lauren Weisberger in which three women team up to bring a bad man down in the tony suburb of Greenwich, Connecticut. Welcome to Greenwich, Connecticut, where the lawns and the women are perfectly manicured, the

Tito's and sodas are extra strong, and everyone has something to say about the infamous new neighbor. Let's be clear: Emily Charlton does not do the suburbs. After leaving Miranda Priestly, she's been working in Hollywood as an image consultant to the stars, but recently, Emily's lost a few clients. She's hopeless with social media. The new guard is nipping at her heels. She needs a big opportunity, and she needs it now. When Karolina Hartwell, a gorgeous former supermodel, is arrested, her fall from grace is merciless. Her senator-husband leaves her, her Beltway friends disappear, and the tabloids pounce. In Karolina, Emily finds her comeback opportunity. But she quickly learns Greenwich is a world apart and that this comeback needs a team approach. So it is that Emily, the scorned Karolina, and their mutual friend Miriam, a powerful attorney turned stay-at-home mom, band together to navigate the social land mines of suburban Greenwich and win back the hearts of the American public. Along the way, an unexpected ally emerges in one Miranda Priestly. With her signature wit, Lauren Weisberger offers an alluring look into a sexy, over-the-top world—and proves it's style and substance together that gets the job done. "A delicious sequel to *The Devil Wears Prada*...exploring what it's like to be a woman buffeted by conflicting messages about career, relationships, and motherhood" (The Washington Post), When Life Gives You Lululemons is "amazing novel about...truth, lies and how everyone is a little bit insecure" (Associated Press). "Fast-paced, funny, and gossipy, this is the must-have accessory for your beach bag" (PopSugar).

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: The Last Painting of Sara de Vos Dominic Smith, 2016-04-05 "Written in prose so clear that we absorb its images as if by mind meld, "The Last Painting" is gorgeous storytelling: wry, playful, and utterly alive, with an almost tactile awareness of the emotional contours of the human heart. Vividly detailed, acutely sensitive to stratifications of gender and class, it's fiction that keeps you up at night — first because you're barreling through the book, then because you've slowed your pace to a crawl, savoring the suspense." —Boston Globe A New York Times Bestseller A New York Times Book Review Editor's Choice A RARE SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY PAINTING LINKS THREE LIVES, ON THREE CONTINENTS, OVER THREE CENTURIES IN THE LAST PAINTING OF SARA DE VOS, AN EXHILARATING NEW NOVEL FROM DOMINIC SMITH. Amsterdam, 1631: Sara de Vos becomes the first woman to be admitted as a master painter to the city's Guild of St. Luke. Though women do not paint landscapes (they are generally restricted to indoor subjects), a wintry outdoor scene haunts Sara: She cannot shake the image of a young girl from a nearby village, standing alone beside a silver birch at dusk, staring out at a group of skaters on the frozen river below. Defying the expectations of her time, she decides to paint it. New York City, 1957: The only known surviving work of Sara de Vos, *At the Edge of a Wood*, hangs in the bedroom of a wealthy Manhattan lawyer, Marty de Groot, a descendant of the original owner. It is a beautiful but comfortless landscape. The lawyer's marriage is prominent but comfortless, too. When a struggling art history grad student, Ellie Shipley, agrees to forge the painting for a dubious art dealer, she finds herself entangled with its owner in ways no one could predict. Sydney, 2000: Now a celebrated art historian and curator, Ellie Shipley is mounting an exhibition in her field of specialization: female painters of the Dutch Golden Age. When it becomes apparent that both the original *At the Edge of a Wood* and her forgery are en route to her museum, the life she has carefully constructed threatens to unravel entirely and irrevocably.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: Vodka Politics Mark Lawrence Schrad, 2014-02-05 Russia is famous for its vodka, and its culture of extreme intoxication. But just as vodka is central to the lives of many Russians, it is also central to understanding Russian history and politics. In *Vodka Politics*, Mark Lawrence Schrad argues that debilitating societal alcoholism is not hard-wired into Russians' genetic code, but rather their autocratic political system, which has long wielded vodka as a tool of statecraft. Through a series of historical investigations stretching from Ivan the Terrible through Vladimir Putin, *Vodka Politics* presents the secret history of the Russian state itself—a history that is drenched in liquor. Scrutinizing (rather than dismissing) the role of alcohol in Russian politics yields a more nuanced understanding of Russian history itself: from palace intrigues under the tsars to the drunken antics of Soviet and post-Soviet leadership, vodka is

there in abundance. Beyond vivid anecdotes, Schrad scours original documents and archival evidence to answer provocative historical questions. How have Russia's rulers used alcohol to solidify their autocratic rule? What role did alcohol play in tsarist coups? Was Nicholas II's ill-fated prohibition a catalyst for the Bolshevik Revolution? Could the Soviet Union have become a world power without liquor? How did vodka politics contribute to the collapse of both communism and public health in the 1990s? How can the Kremlin overcome vodka's hurdles to produce greater social well-being, prosperity, and democracy into the future? Viewing Russian history through the bottom of the vodka bottle helps us to understand why the liquor question remains important to Russian high politics even today-almost a century after the issue had been put to bed in most every other modern state. Indeed, recognizing and confronting vodka's devastating political legacies may be the greatest political challenge for this generation of Russia's leadership, as well as the next.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: Heft Liz Moore, 2012 An obese former academic shut-in and a poor kid dreaming of a successful baseball career are linked together by a former student who transforms their lives.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet David Mitchell, 2010-06-29 By the New York Times bestselling author of *The Bone Clocks* and *Cloud Atlas* | Longlisted for the Man Booker Prize In 2007, Time magazine named him one of the most influential novelists in the world. He has twice been short-listed for the Man Booker Prize. The New York Times Book Review called him simply "a genius." Now David Mitchell lends fresh credence to The Guardian's claim that "each of his books seems entirely different from that which preceded it." *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet* is a stunning departure for this brilliant, restless, and wildly ambitious author, a giant leap forward by even his own high standards. A bold and epic novel of a rarely visited point in history, it is a work as exquisitely rendered as it is irresistibly readable. The year is 1799, the place Dejima in Nagasaki Harbor, the "high-walled, fan-shaped artificial island" that is the Japanese Empire's single port and sole window onto the world, designed to keep the West at bay; the farthest outpost of the war-ravaged Dutch East Indies Company; and a de facto prison for the dozen foreigners permitted to live and work there. To this place of devious merchants, deceitful interpreters, costly courtesans, earthquakes, and typhoons comes Jacob de Zoet, a devout and resourceful young clerk who has five years in the East to earn a fortune of sufficient size to win the hand of his wealthy fiancée back in Holland. But Jacob's original intentions are eclipsed after a chance encounter with Orito Aibagawa, the disfigured daughter of a samurai doctor and midwife to the city's powerful magistrate. The borders between propriety, profit, and pleasure blur until Jacob finds his vision clouded, one rash promise made and then fatefully broken. The consequences will extend beyond Jacob's worst imaginings. As one cynical colleague asks, "Who ain't a gambler in the glorious Orient, with his very life?" A magnificent mix of luminous writing, prodigious research, and heedless imagination, *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet* is the most impressive achievement of its eminent author. Praise for *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet* "A page-turner . . . [David] Mitchell's masterpiece; and also, I am convinced, a masterpiece of our time."—Richard Eder, *The Boston Globe* "An achingly romantic story of forbidden love . . . Mitchell's incredible prose is on stunning display. . . . A novel of ideas, of longing, of good and evil and those who fall somewhere in between [that] confirms Mitchell as one of the more fascinating and fearless writers alive."—Dave Eggers, *The New York Times Book Review* "The novelist who's been showing us the future of fiction has published a classic, old-fashioned tale . . . an epic of sacrificial love, clashing civilizations and enemies who won't rest until whole family lines have been snuffed out."—Ron Charles, *The Washington Post* "By any standards, *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet* is a formidable marvel."—James Wood, *The New Yorker* "A beautiful novel, full of life and authenticity, atmosphere and characters that breathe."—Maureen Corrigan, NPR

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane Lisa See, 2017-03-21 A thrilling new novel from #1 New York Times bestselling author Lisa See explores the lives of a Chinese mother and her daughter who has been adopted by an American couple. Li-yan and her family align their lives around the seasons and the farming of tea. There is ritual and

routine, and it has been ever thus for generations. Then one day a jeep appears at the village gate—the first automobile any of them have seen—and a stranger arrives. In this remote Yunnan village, the stranger finds the rare tea he has been seeking and a reticent Akha people. In her biggest seller, *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, See introduced the Yao people to her readers. Here she shares the customs of another Chinese ethnic minority, the Akha, whose world will soon change. Li-yan, one of the few educated girls on her mountain, translates for the stranger and is among the first to reject the rules that have shaped her existence. When she has a baby outside of wedlock, rather than stand by tradition, she wraps her daughter in a blanket, with a tea cake hidden in her swaddling, and abandons her in the nearest city. After mother and daughter have gone their separate ways, Li-yan slowly emerges from the security and insularity of her village to encounter modern life while Haley grows up a privileged and well-loved California girl. Despite Haley's happy home life, she wonders about her origins; and Li-yan longs for her lost daughter. They both search for and find answers in the tea that has shaped their family's destiny for generations. A powerful story about a family, separated by circumstances, culture, and distance, *Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* paints an unforgettable portrait of a little known region and its people and celebrates the bond that connects mothers and daughters.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: *The Street* Ann Petry, 2013-08-23 WITH A NEW INTRODUCTION FROM NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR TAYARI JONES "How can a novel's social criticism be so unflinching and clear, yet its plot moves like a house on fire? I am tempted to describe Petry as a magician for the many ways that *The Street* amazes, but this description cheapens her talent . . . Petry is a gifted artist." — Tayari Jones, from the Introduction *The Street* follows the spirited Lutie Johnson, a newly single mother whose efforts to claim a share of the American Dream for herself and her young son meet frustration at every turn in 1940s Harlem. Opening a fresh perspective on the realities and challenges of black, female, working-class life, *The Street* became the first novel by an African American woman to sell more than a million copies.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: *The Story of Arthur Truluv* Elizabeth Berg, 2017-11-21 "I dare you to read this novel and not fall in love with Arthur Truluv. His story will make you laugh and cry, and will show you a love that never ends, and what it means to be truly human."—Fannie Flagg An emotionally powerful novel about three people who each lose the one they love most, only to find second chances where they least expect them "Fans of Meg Wolitzer, Emma Straub, or [Elizabeth] Berg's previous novels will appreciate the richly complex characters and clear prose. Redemptive without being maudlin, this story of two misfits lucky to have found one another will tug at readers' heartstrings."—Booklist For the past six months, Arthur Moses's days have looked the same: He tends to his rose garden and to Gordon, his cat, then rides the bus to the cemetery to visit his beloved late wife for lunch. The last thing Arthur would imagine is for one unlikely encounter to utterly transform his life. Eighteen-year-old Maddy Harris is an introspective girl who visits the cemetery to escape the other kids at school. One afternoon she joins Arthur—a gesture that begins a surprising friendship between two lonely souls. Moved by Arthur's kindness and devotion, Maddy gives him the nickname "Truluv." As Arthur's neighbor Lucille moves into their orbit, the unlikely trio band together and, through heartache and hardships, help one another rediscover their own potential to start anew. Wonderfully written and full of profound observations about life, *The Story of Arthur Truluv* is a beautiful and moving novel of compassion in the face of loss, of the small acts that turn friends into family, and of the possibilities to achieve happiness at any age. Praise for *The Story of Arthur Truluv* "For several days after [finishing *The Story of Arthur Truluv*], I felt lifted by it, and I found myself telling friends, also feeling overwhelmed by 2017, about the book. Read this, I said, it will offer some balance to all that has happened, and it is a welcome reminder we're all neighbors here."—Chicago Tribune "Not since Paul Zindel's classic *The Pigman* have we seen such a unique bond between people who might not look twice at each other in real life. This small, mighty novel offers proof that they should."—People, Book of the Week

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: *The Friend* (National Book Award Winner) Sigrid Nunez, 2018-02-06 WINNER OF THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FOR FICTION ONE OF THE

NEW YORK TIMES'S 100 BEST BOOKS OF THE 21ST CENTURY NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE STARRING NAOMI WATTS "A beautiful book . . . a world of insight into death, grief, art, and love." —Wall Street Journal "A penetrating, moving meditation on loss, comfort, memory . . . Nunez has a wry, withering wit." —NPR "Dry, allusive and charming . . . the comedy here writes itself." —The New York Times The New York Times bestselling story of love, friendship, grief, healing, and the magical bond between a woman and her dog. When a woman unexpectedly loses her lifelong best friend and mentor, she finds herself burdened with the unwanted dog he has left behind. Her own battle against grief is intensified by the mute suffering of the dog, a huge Great Dane traumatized by the inexplicable disappearance of its master, and by the threat of eviction: dogs are prohibited in her apartment building. While others worry that grief has made her a victim of magical thinking, the woman refuses to be separated from the dog except for brief periods of time. Isolated from the rest of the world, increasingly obsessed with the dog's care, determined to read its mind and fathom its heart, she comes dangerously close to unraveling. But while troubles abound, rich and surprising rewards lie in store for both of them. *Elegiac* and searching, *The Friend* is both a meditation on loss and a celebration of human-canine devotion.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: China Moon Cookbook Barbara Tropp, 1992-10-01 Winner of an IACP/Julia Child Cookbook Award The Julia Child of Chinese cooking (San Francisco Chronicle), Barbara Tropp was a gifted teacher and the chef/owner of one of San Francisco's most popular restaurants. She was also the inventor of Chinese bistro, a marriage of home-style Chinese tastes and techniques with Western ingredients and inspiration, an innovative cuisine that stuffs a wonton with crab and corn and flavors it with green chili sauce, that stir-fries chicken with black beans and basil, that tosses white rice into a salad with ginger-balsamic dressing. Casual yet impeccable, and as balanced as yin and yang, these 275 recipes burst with unexpected flavors and combinations: Prawn Sandpot Casserole with Red Curry and Baby Corn; Spicy Tangerine Beef with Glass Noodles; Pizzetta with Chinese Eggplant, Wild Mushrooms, and Coriander Pesto; Chili-Orange Cold Noodles; Sweet Carrot Soup with Toasted Almonds; Wok-Seared New Potatoes; Crystallized Lemon Tart; and Fresh Ginger Ice Cream.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: The Summer Country Lauren Willig, 2019-06-04 Tense, atmospheric, and gorgeously written, *The Summer Country* is a novel to savor! —Kate Quinn, New York Times bestselling author of *The Huntress* and *The Alice Network* A brilliant, multigenerational saga in the tradition of *The Thorn Birds* and *North and South*, New York Times bestselling historical novelist Lauren Willig delivers her biggest, boldest, and most ambitious novel yet—a sweeping Victorian epic of lost love, lies, jealousy, and rebellion set in colonial Barbados. Barbados, 1854: Emily Dawson has always been the poor cousin in a prosperous English merchant clan—merely a vicar's daughter, and a reform-minded vicar's daughter, at that. Everyone knows that the family's lucrative shipping business will go to her cousin, Adam, one day. But when her grandfather dies, Emily receives an unexpected inheritance: Peverills, a sugar plantation in Barbados—a plantation her grandfather never told anyone he owned. When Emily accompanies her cousin and his new wife to Barbados, she finds Peverills a burnt-out shell, reduced to ruins in 1816, when a rising of enslaved people sent the island up in flames. Rumors swirl around the derelict plantation; people whisper of ghosts. Why would her practical-minded grandfather leave her a property in ruins? Why are the neighboring plantation owners, the Davenants, so eager to acquire Peverills? The answer lies in the past—a tangled history of lies, greed, clandestine love, heartbreaking betrayal, and a bold bid for freedom. *THE SUMMER COUNTRY* will beguile readers with its rendering of families, heartbreak, and the endurance of hope against all odds.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: Wolf Willow Wallace Stegner, 2000-12-01 Wallace Stegner weaves together fiction and nonfiction, history and impressions, childhood remembrance and adult reflections in this unusual portrait of his boyhood. Set in Cypress Hills in southern Saskatchewan, where Stegner's family homesteaded from 1914 to 1920, *Wolf Willow* brings to life both the pioneer community and the magnificent landscape that surrounds it. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the

English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: Among the Dead Cities A. C. Grayling, 2007-04-01 Presents an analysis of the military rationale used by Britain and the United States for bombing civilian targets in Germany and Japan during World War II, discussing the reasons why such tactics were both largely ineffective and morally reprehensible. Reprint. 20,000 first printing.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: Hum If You Don't Know the Words Bianca Marais, 2018-03-06 Perfect for readers of *The Secret Life of Bees* and *The Help*, a perceptive and searing look at Apartheid-era South Africa, told through one unique family brought together by tragedy. Life under Apartheid has created a secure future for Robin Conrad, a ten-year-old white girl living with her parents in 1970s Johannesburg. In the same nation but worlds apart, Beauty Mbali, a Xhosa woman in a rural village in the Bantu homeland of the Transkei, struggles to raise her children alone after her husband's death. Both lives have been built upon the division of race, and their meeting should never have occurred...until the Soweto Uprising, in which a protest by black students ignites racial conflict, alters the fault lines on which their society is built, and shatters their worlds when Robin's parents are left dead and Beauty's daughter goes missing. After Robin is sent to live with her loving but irresponsible aunt, Beauty is hired to care for Robin while continuing the search for her daughter. In Beauty, Robin finds the security and family that she craves, and the two forge an inextricable bond through their deep personal losses. But Robin knows that if Beauty finds her daughter, Robin could lose her new caretaker forever, so she makes a desperate decision with devastating consequences. Her quest to make amends and find redemption is a journey of self-discovery in which she learns the harsh truths of the society that once promised her protection. Told through Beauty and Robin's alternating perspectives, the interwoven narratives create a rich and complex tapestry of the emotions and tensions at the heart of Apartheid-era South Africa. *Hum If You Don't Know the Words* is a beautifully rendered look at loss, racism, and the creation of family.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: The Life We Bury Allen Eskens, 2017-11-28 Seorang gadis pemandu sorak dibunuh dengan kejam di sebuah gudang. Sang tetangga, Carl Iverson, seorang veteran Perang Vietnam, dijadikan tersangka dan divonis puluhan tahun penjara. Tiga puluh tahun kemudian, Joe Talbert, seorang mahasiswa, mendapat tugas untuk menuliskan biografi seseorang. Dia berencana mencari narasumber dari panti jompo, tapi siapa sangka dia malah bertemu Carl, sang pembunuh yang tengah sekarat karena kanker pankreas? Kesempatan untuk mewawancarai Carl adalah tantangan yang tidak akan Joe lewatkan. Namun, tidak ada penjahat yang mau mengaku. Carl pun begitu. Sejujur apa seorang pria yang hampir mati? Bisakah Joe percaya? Helai demi helai benang kebenaran terurai. Dalam perjalanan menguak peristiwa tragis dan menghadapi pertarungan hidup dan mati dengan iblis sesungguhnya dari masa lampau, Joe juga harus menghadapi masa sekarangnya yang kacau balau. Sebelum semuanya terlambat, mampukah Joe melewati semuanya dengan selamat? [Mizan, Noura Books, Horror, Thriller, Novel, Terjemahan, Indonesia, Allen Esken]

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: Nothing Is Forgotten Peter Golden, 2019-03-19 From the beloved author of *Comeback Love* and *Wherever There Is Light*, comes "a sweeping tale full of humor and heartbreak" (Karin Tanabe, author of *The Diplomat's Daughter*) about the life-changing journey of a young man who travels from New Jersey to Khrushchev's Russia and the beaches of Southern France to discover long-hidden secrets about his heritage. In 1950s New Jersey, teacher Michael Daniels—or Misha Danielov to his doting Russian-Jewish grandmother—is at loose ends, until he becomes the host of a nightly underground radio show. Not only does the show become a local hit because of his running satires of USSR leader Nikita Khrushchev, but half a world away, it picks up listeners in a small Soviet city. There, with rock and roll leaking in through bootlegged airwaves, Yulianna Kosoy—a war orphan in her mid-twenties—is

sneaking American goods into the country with her boss, Der Schmuggler. But just as Michael's radio show is taking off, his grandmother is murdered. Why would anyone commit such an atrocity against such a warm, affable woman? She had always been secretive about her past and, as Michael discovers, guarded a shadowy ancestral history. In order to solve the mystery of who killed her, Michael sets out for Europe to learn where he—and his grandmother—really came from. "Both heartbreaking and mesmerizing, *Nothing Is Forgotten* is the sort of book you won't soon forget...Cold War Europe, lingering Nazi secrets, and the tragic history faced by millions of families not only bring this tale to life but will keep you turning the pages" (Lisa Wingate, New York Times bestselling author) and will appeal to fans of novels by Anita Diamant and Kristin Hannah.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: *The Footprints of God* Greg Iles, 2004 In this New York Times bestseller, Iles probes the terrifying possibility that the next phase of human evolution may not be human at all. Alarming, believable, and utterly consuming.--Dan Brown. Now available in a tall Premium Edition. Reissue.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: *The Unhoneymooners* Christina Lauren, 2019-05-14 THE INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER! Starred reviews from Kirkus Reviews * Publishers Weekly * Library Journal Named a "Must-Read" by TODAY, Us Weekly, Bustle, BuzzFeed, Goodreads, Entertainment Weekly, Publishers Weekly, Southern Living, Book Riot, Woman's Day, The Toronto Star, and more! For two sworn enemies, anything can happen during the Hawaiian trip of a lifetime—maybe even love—in this romantic comedy from the New York Times bestselling authors of *Roomies*. Olive Torres is used to being the unlucky twin: from inexplicable mishaps to a recent layoff, her life seems to be almost comically jinxed. By contrast, her sister Ami is an eternal champion...she even managed to finance her entire wedding by winning a slew of contests. Unfortunately for Olive, the only thing worse than constant bad luck is having to spend the wedding day with the best man (and her nemesis), Ethan Thomas. Olive braces herself for wedding hell, determined to put on a brave face, but when the entire wedding party gets food poisoning, the only people who aren't affected are Olive and Ethan. Suddenly there's a free honeymoon up for grabs, and Olive will be damned if Ethan gets to enjoy paradise solo. Agreeing to a temporary truce, the pair head for Maui. After all, ten days of bliss is worth having to assume the role of loving newlyweds, right? But the weird thing is...Olive doesn't mind playing pretend. In fact, the more she pretends to be the luckiest woman alive, the more it feels like she might be. With Christina Lauren's "uniquely hilarious and touching voice" (Entertainment Weekly), *The Unhoneymooners* is a romance for anyone who has ever felt unlucky in love.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: *The Absolute Book* Elizabeth Knox, 2021-03-18 DISCOVER THE ENCHANTING EPIC THAT WILL TRANSPORT YOU TO OTHER WORLDS . . . 'AN INSTANT CLASSIC' GUARDIAN 'BEWITCHING' THE TIMES 'MIND-BLOWING' LAINI TAYLOR 'ASTOUNDING' FRANCIS SPUFFORD 'GORGEOUSLY WRITTEN' DEBORAH HARKNESS _____ Taryn Cornick barely remembers the family library. Since her sister was murdered, she's forgotten so much. Now it's all coming back. The fire. The thief. The scroll box. People are asking questions about the library. Questions that might relate to her sister's murder. And something called *The Absolute Book*. A book in which secrets are written - and which everyone believes only she can find. They insist Taryn be the hunter. But she knows the truth. She is the hunted . . . _____ *The Absolute Book* is a tale of sisters, ancient blood, a forgotten library, murder, revenge and a book that might just have the answer to everything. 'An instant classic . . . A work to rank alongside other modern masterpieces of fantasy such as Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* series or Susanna Clarke's *Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell*. Everything fantasy should be: original, magical, well read, compelling' GUARDIAN 'Astonishing. Gripping. Hugely ambitious. An extraordinary conclusion. Admire the sheer scope and grandeur' DAILY MAIL 'A marvellous argument for stories. There are Norse gods, references to Merlin, a tour through purgatory and a strange parallel world where magic is real and humans are bit players in the clash of supernatural realms. Bewitching' THE TIMES 'Contains multitudes, spanning the geographies of Canada, Britain and New Zealand; the cosmologies of fairies, demons and angels; and the genres of thriller,

domestic realism and epic fantasy . . . I'm in awe of it' NEW YORK TIMES Review of Books
'Intricately plotted and gorgeously written, THE ABSOLUTE BOOK has something for everyone . . .
Here is a cinematic tale that is by turns dark and dreamlike, yet ultimately hopeful' DEBORAH
HARKNESS, author of A DISCOVERY OF WITCHES 'Fantastical' THE TIMES 'Savour and absorb the
world Knox conjures' SUNDAY TIMES 'Gorgeous. The payoffs and reveals are mind-blowing' LAINI
TAYLOR, author of DAUGHTER OF SMOKE AND BONE 'An angelic book, an apocalyptic book, an
astounding book' FRANCIS SPUFFORD

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: The Chicken Sisters KJ Dell'Antonia,
2020-12-01 INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER—NOW A HALLMARK+ ORIGINAL SERIES!
A REESE'S BOOK CLUB PICK "A charming, hilarious, feel-good story about the kind of bonds &
rivalries only sisters can share. Also, a great present for your sister for the holidays!!"—Reese
Witherspoon Three generations. Two chicken shacks. One recipe for disaster. In tiny Merinac,
Kansas, Chicken Mimi's and Chicken Frannie's have spent a century vying to serve up the best fried
chicken in the state—and the legendary feud between their respective owners, the Moores and the
Pogociellos, has lasted just as long. No one feels the impact more than thirty-five-year-old widow
Amanda Moore, who grew up working for her mom at Mimi's before scandalously marrying Frank
Pogociello and changing sides to work at Frannie's. Tired of being caught in the middle, Amanda
sends an SOS to Food Wars, the reality TV restaurant competition that promises \$100,000 to the
winner. But in doing so, she launches both families out of the frying pan and directly into the fire. . .
The last thing Brooklyn-based organizational guru Mae Moore, Amanda's sister, wants is to go home
to Kansas. But when her career implodes, helping the fading Mimi's look good on Food Wars
becomes Mae's best chance to reclaim the limelight—even if doing so pits her against Amanda and
Frannie's. Yet when family secrets become public knowledge, the sisters must choose: Will they fight
with each other, or for their heritage?

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: The Road from Raqqa Jordan Ritter Conn,
2020-07-21 Crossing years and continents, the harrowing story of the road to reunion for two Syrian
brothers who—despite a homeland at war and an ocean between them—hold fast to the bonds of
family. Runner-Up for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize • Riveting . . . a resplendent love letter to an
obliterated city."—The New York Times "The Road from Raqqa had me gripped from the first page. I
couldn't put it down."—Christy Lefteri, author of The Beekeeper of Aleppo The Alkasem brothers,
Riyad and Bashar, spend their childhood in Raqqa, the Syrian city that would later become the
capital of ISIS. As a teenager in the 1980s, Riyadh witnesses the devastating aftermath of the Hama
massacre—an atrocity that the Hafez al-Assad regime commits upon its people. Wanting to expand
his notion of government and justice, Riyadh moves to the United States to study law, but his plans
are derailed and he eventually falls in love with a Southern belle. They move to a suburb of
Nashville, Tennessee, where they raise two sons and where Riyadh opens a restaurant—Café
Rakka—cooking the food his grandmother used to make. But he finds himself confronted with the
darker side of American freedoms: the hardscrabble life of a newly arrived immigrant, enduring
bigotry, poverty, and loneliness. Years pass, and at the height of Syria's civil war, fearing for his
family's safety halfway across the world, he risks his own life by making a dangerous trip back to
Raqqa. Bashar, meanwhile, in Syria. After his older brother moves to America, Bashar embarks on a
brilliant legal career under the same corrupt Assad government that Riyadh despises. Reluctant to
abandon his comfortable (albeit conflicted) life, he fails to perceive the threat of ISIS until it's nearly
too late. The Road from Raqqa brings us into the lives of two brothers bound by their love for each
other and for the war-ravaged city they call home. It's about a family caught in the middle of the
most significant global events of the new millennium, America's fraught but hopeful relationship to
its own immigrants, and the toll of dictatorship and war on everyday families. It's a book that
captures all the desperation, tenacity, and hope that come with the revelation that we can find home
in one another when the lands of our forefathers fail us.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: The Secret to Hummingbird Cake Celeste
Fletcher McHale, 2016-02-09 Friends since kindergarten, Carrigan, Ella Rae, and Laine thought

they'd been through everything together. But when cancer threatens to rip the trio apart, their world spins in a way they've never known before. Through it all, will they discover the secret to the divine taste of hummingbird cake—and to friendships that never end? In the South you always say “yes, ma’am” and “no, ma’am.” You know everybody’s business. Football is a lifestyle not a pastime. Food—especially dessert—is almost a religious experience. And you protect your friends as fiercely as you protect your family—even if the threat is something you cannot see. In this Southern novel brimming with wit and authenticity, Laine, Carrigan, Ella Rae first met on the playground when they were five years old. Now, as adults, they’re still almost inseparable as they handle the outrageous curveballs that life sometimes throws—from devastating pain to absolute joy. As the three friends navigate everything from a devastating medical diagnosis to the rocky path of marriage, their bond is tested. Through it all, you’ll experience the essence and the joy of true friendship. And if you’re lucky, you just may discover the secret to hummingbird cake along the way. Women’s fiction, focused on friendship, and set in the South Full length, stand-alone novel Includes discussion questions for book clubs

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: The Magician's Assistant Ann Patchett, 2004-09-17 From the bestselling author of *The Dutch House*, a secretive magician’s death becomes the catalyst for his partner’s journey of self-discovery in this “enchanting” book (San Francisco Chronicle) “that is something of a magic trick in itself.” (Newsweek) When Parsifal, a handsome and charming magician, dies suddenly, his widow Sabine—who was also his faithful assistant for twenty years—learns that the family he claimed to have lost in a tragic accident is very much alive and well. Sabine is left to unravel his secrets, and the journey she takes, from sunny Los Angeles to the bitter windswept plains of Nebraska, will work its own magic on her. Sabine's extraordinary tale, “with its big dreams, vast spaces, and disparate realities lying side by side” captures the hearts of its readers and “proves to be the perfect place for miraculous transformations.” (The New Yorker)

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: The Golden Hour Beatriz Williams, 2019-07-09 “The Golden Hour is pure golden delight Beatriz Williams is at the top of her game.” —Kate Quinn, New York Times Bestselling Author of *The Alice Network* Beatriz Williams, the New York Times bestselling author of *The Summer Wives*, is back with another hot summer read; a dazzling epic of World War II in which a beautiful young “society reporter” is sent to the Bahamas, a haven of spies, traitors, and the infamous Duke and Duchess of Windsor. The Bahamas, 1941. Newly-widowed Leonora “Lulu” Randolph arrives in the Bahamas to investigate the Governor and his wife for a New York society magazine. After all, American readers have an insatiable appetite for news of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, that glamorous couple whose love affair nearly brought the British monarchy to its knees five years earlier. What more intriguing backdrop for their romance than a wartime Caribbean paradise, a colonial playground for kingpins of ill-gotten empires? Or so Lulu imagines. But as she infiltrates the Duke and Duchess’s social circle, and the powerful cabal that controls the islands’ political and financial affairs, she uncovers evidence that beneath the glister of Wallis and Edward’s marriage lies an ugly—and even treasonous—reality. In fact, Windsor-era Nassau seethes with spies, financial swindles, and racial tension, and in the middle of it all stands Benedict Thorpe: a scientist of tremendous charm and murky national loyalties. Inevitably, the willful and wounded Lulu falls in love. Then Nassau’s wealthiest man is murdered in one of the most notorious cases of the century, and the resulting coverup reeks of royal privilege. Benedict Thorpe disappears without a trace, and Lulu embarks on a journey to London and beyond to unpick Thorpe’s complicated family history: a fateful love affair, a wartime tragedy, and a mother from whom all joy is stolen. The stories of two unforgettable women thread together in this extraordinary epic of espionage, sacrifice, human love, and human courage, set against a shocking true crime . . . and the rise and fall of a legendary royal couple.

a gentleman in moscow discussion questions: The Agenda Ian Millhiser, 2021-03-30 From 2011, when Republicans gained control of the House of Representatives, until the present, Congress enacted hardly any major legislation outside of the tax law President Trump signed in 2017. In the same period, the Supreme Court dismantled much of America's campaign finance law, severely

weakened the Voting Rights Act, permitted states to opt-out of the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion, weakened laws protecting against age discrimination and sexual and racial harassment, and held that every state must permit same-sex couples to marry. This powerful unelected body, now controlled by six very conservative Republicans, has and will become the locus of policymaking in the United States. Ian Millhiser, Vox's Supreme Court correspondent, tells the story of what those six justices are likely to do with their power. It is true that the right to abortion is in its final days, as is affirmative action. But Millhiser shows that it is in the most arcane decisions that the Court will fundamentally reshape America, transforming it into something far less democratic, by attacking voting rights, dismantling and vetoing the federal administrative state, ignoring the separation of church and state, and putting corporations above the law. The Agenda exposes a radically altered Supreme Court whose powers extend far beyond transforming any individual right--its agenda is to shape the very nature of America's government, redefining who gets to have legal rights, who is beyond the reach of the law, and who chooses the people who make our laws.

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