

American Royalty, by Susan Price

Book Club Guide

1. Daphne and Meade fight for their family homes, while Erin and Augie always expected to leave their hometowns. How much does where you grew up shape your own identity, and what does it mean to you to have stayed or left?
2. Augie arrives in Newport willing to sacrifice true love to build a secure future. How do you feel about marriage as a practical choice rather than a romantic one? Do you think it is different for men?
3. Augie is inspired by Reverend Ike, a minister in New York City who had a popular radio show in the 1970s, to believe in the power of optimism and visualizing a prosperous future. Do you think affirmations and mantras can have a positive impact on someone's life? Have you ever used them?
4. Erin struggles to decide whether to tell her mother about Nora Murphy. Do you think she made the right choice?
5. Both Newport and New York City were struggling financially in the 1970s. At the same time, feminism, civil rights, and other cultural shifts were gaining traction. Do you think it is necessary for a society to struggle before it can change? What about people?
6. Looking back on the feminist movement in the 1970s, what do you think has changed for better or worse for women, and what would you like to change now?
7. Celebrities and wealthy people have a big role in shaping how America defines itself and what many other people aspire to. Do you think they have too much power?