

*Don't Forget to Write Book Club Questions*

1. Do you feel Marilyn's parents want her to marry Dan to save her reputation or their own? Why?
2. What were your first impressions of Ada? How did those change as you learned more about her?
3. How effective do you think Ada's methods are for finding matches? Is she looking for the right combination of compatibility attributes?
4. Ada disapproves of Freddy's family—why? What does Marilyn see that Ada wouldn't like?
5. Why does Marilyn reject Freddy when he comes to her after his ex shows up pregnant?
6. Why didn't Marilyn tell Freddy about the typewriter and wanting to write? She says he never asked, but Marilyn doesn't seem like the type of girl who waits, so why did she keep that from him?
7. Marilyn tells Ada that Freddy didn't break her heart. If she's not in love with him, why is she spending so much time with him?
8. How does Ada's revelation about Rose fit into Marilyn's view of her mother?
9. Why does Ada immediately take to Dan when she wanted nothing to do with Freddy?
10. Do you think an affair with Hemingway happened? Why or why not?
11. Ada tells Marilyn that the world loves to destroy what it doesn't understand? Is this true? What are some examples?
12. Marilyn's father says he will sit shivah for her and that she will be dead to them if she stays with Ada. Do you think he would follow through on that or is it an empty threat?
13. Why doesn't Ada just give Marilyn money to start a new life? What obstacles would still be in place if she did that?
14. Does Lillian drop any clues that Marilyn misses about the end?
15. Do you think Ada is actually in the back of the funeral? Or is it Marilyn's imagination?
16. Modern readers are expected to see Ada and Lillian's relationship—when did you first suspect something was up with Ada and Lillian? Why might Marilyn miss that in 1960?
17. What do you think they'll find in Key West? Is Ada there?
18. Ada tells Marilyn that if she ever gets tired of being Ada Heller, Key West is waiting—do you think she actually got tired of being Ada Heller? Or did she do this entirely for Marilyn?
19. Marilyn obviously learns a lot from Ada, but what did Ada learn from Marilyn?
20. Do you think Marilyn and Dan will last? Why or why not?