

MARCH BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A Certain Age

by Beatriz Williams

1. How does the author set the stage for the era when describing the Roaring Twenties in New York City?
2. Given what you know about Theresa's character at the beginning of the novel, do you think she followed the best path?
3. Theresa and her husband have an open relationship. Why might affairs have been more permissible during the 1920s than they are today?
4. Julie Schuyler is a feisty character. At one point, she says to Sophie: "It never does any good to sit around the house, waiting for your man to arrive. *That's* the old rules." In these times, neither sex really waits around for each other or returns phone calls or texts when they should. Do you see this as freedom or inconsiderate behavior? Does it help the romance cause or hinder it?
5. A CERTAIN AGE is set in the 1920s in the era of speakeasies and bootlegging. Which scenes do you gravitate toward most: the underground parties full of flappers, smoke and jazz, or the upper-crust soirees decorated with crinoline, lace and fancy cocktails? Which kind of social event do you think the author preferred to write about.
6. Sophie and Theresa are alter egos of a sort. Do you identify with one over the other? Who were you rooting for to win Octavian's heart? Did your opinion of him change throughout the course of the novel?
7. Williams sprinkles reports of a trial involving Octavian, Theresa and Sophie's father throughout the book. What do Patty Cake's articles add to the plot and each character's development?
8. As Sophie denounces her plan to get married, she looks around the room at the rich women and thinks, "Not one of these women has earned a single penny in her life, has she?" Is there anything wrong, *per se*, with these marriages of convenience?
9. Theresa makes two choices at the end of the novel. Does it fit her character, and what does it say about the way she's evolved?

