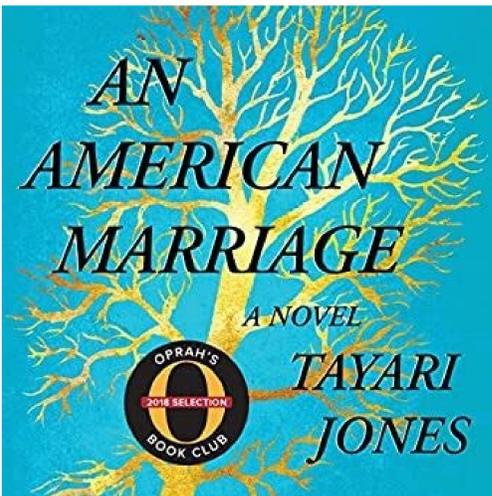
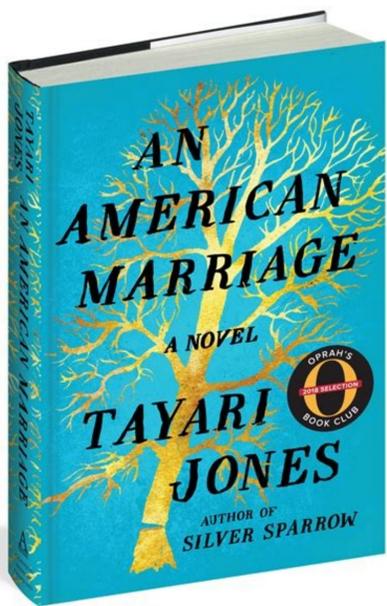
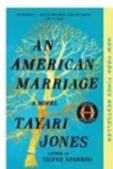


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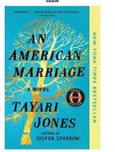


An American Marriage (Oprah's Book Club): A Novel by Tayari Jones



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An american marriage book club questions and answers.

This post contains affiliate links. See my disclosure policy for more information. Get a copy of An American Marriage here on Amazon. Why I Read An American Marriage I first learned about this book prior to its release and immediately decided that it would make a great book club selection. Leave it to Oprah to steal my idea for her book club. Hmph! The gold, the blue, and the beautiful tree featured on the cover drew me in initially. But I chose this book for several other reasons. Part of it has to do with my fascination with the wrongly accused. I could not get enough of the Netflix series Making of a Murderer and still follow along for updates. In law school, I regrettably missed out on the opportunity to join the Innocence Project, wherein a group of students worked with DNA evidence, newly available at the time, to review and attempt to reverse cases of those wrongfully accused. Also, after reading Jodi Picoult's Small Great Things, I really wanted to read a book told from the perspective of an African American woman writer. Tayari Jones is an award-winning novelist who somehow has slipped under my radar. Check out my free downloadable Book Club Questions for "An American Marriage" at the end of this post! Discover what I'm reading, read product reviews, learn wellness tips, and more through the MyPurseStrings Favorite Things Facebook Group. Looking to support local independent bookstores? Find out how here on Bookshop.org and also get my list of book club picks so far. What is An American Marriage About? In this book, a couple, newly married tests the strengths of marriage, when the husband wrongfully sent to prison, returns five years later returns as an innocent man. It's an "intimate look into the souls of people who must reckon with the past while moving forward." Join the Facebook Group The My Purse Strings Virtual Book Club ran from 2018 to 2020. What started as an outlet to discuss books and to motivate me to read has turned into a Facebook Group where we recommend our favorite books, discuss what we're currently reading, and I share the newest blog posts, product reviews, wellness tips, and more. You can find all of these books and more in my Amazon Shop. Click below. BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR AN AMERICAN MARRIAGE Use these questions with your own Book Club! You can find all Virtual Book Club questions in our free resource library. AN AMERICAN MARRIAGE BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION We discussed some tough topics and answered some difficult questions. If you couldn't make it to the book club meeting, I've provided a transcript below. Pin for later! Related Book Club Articles: How to Find a Book Club that's Right for You The Great Alone: Book Club Questions Educated, A Memoir: Book Club Questions The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo: Book Club Discussion Questions The Ultimate List of Books from A to Z Check out our next book selection and join our Facebook group to chat about books, and stay updated on our club. other books in our Romance Category. To view more posted books, go to Book List. To view books in process, and to suggest new books, go to Books In Process. To view additional authors, go to Author List. This content contains affiliate links. When you buy through these links, we may earn an affiliate commission. So your book club chose to discuss An American Marriage by Tayari Jones, and you're looking for An American Marriage book club questions for this novel. You've come to the right place. But first: a story. This is a true story. When An American Marriage by Tayari Jones first came out, my book club discussed it. I was the one who suggested the book for my book club, actually. I read the book. I loved it. I was excited about discussing it with my book club friends. Then I got called into work last minute and I wasn't able to go to the meeting. So I never got to talk about An American Marriage with anyone else, and that's bothered me for a while. This book is such a great one to open up a dialogue about so many topics: racism, feminism, the justice system in America, marriage, family, responsibility, and so on. I've recommended this book to people I hardly know in the hopes that they'll talk to me about some of these things. And you know what? No such luck yet. But if I could go back in time and go to that book club meeting I missed, I would ask these questions about Tayari Jones's amazing novel An American Marriage. Thank you for signing up! Keep an eye on your inbox. By signing up you agree to our terms of use 10 An American Marriage Book Club Questions For Tayari Jones's Novel Jones named her novel An American Marriage, a title which suggests this novel has something specific to say about marriage in America. What do you think this novel is saying about marriage? What makes the events of this novel specifically American? For Celestial, it seems as if certain behaviors are expected of her as a woman and, even more specifically, as Black woman. What sort of expectations do we see her family and Roy place on her? Are these expectations fair? Do you agree with how she responded to them? This story is told in three alternating perspectives: Celestial, Roy, and Andre. Was there a certain perspective you responded more positively towards? How do you think you would view these characters differently if the story was told only from Celestial's point of view? Or Roy's? In an interview Tayari Jones did for Book Riot, she said that before doing research for this book, she was interested in prison reform. Now, she's more interested in the work of prison abolitionists because "I don't see how our prison system is working for anyone—not the people who have committed crimes, not the victims, not the tax payers. Nobody is winning here." Does this novel illustrate that perspective? Did reading this novel affect your opinion on the American prison system? This novel's pacing is interesting in that it focuses in on specific moments of time for an extended period, speeds through others through the exchange of letters, and skips over periods of time entirely to move on to the next important moment. Why do you think Jones chose the moments she did to write about in detail? What effect did the fast passage of time have on the narrative? There are so many beautiful insights about love and the nature of love in this novel. For instance, Jones writes, "Love is the enemy of sound judgment, and occasionally this is in service of the good." Do you agree with this sentiment? How does love affect characters' decisions in this novel? Celestial starts a successful business creating poupees, or baby dolls. What do these dolls symbolize for Celestial? Without including a spoiler that would give away this plot point, Roy meets someone incredibly important while he's in prison. What do you think this added to the story? Did it change Roy in any significant way, and if so, how? Have you read If Beale Street Could Talk by James Baldwin or the film adaptation of the novel directed by Barry Jenkins? Both stories have a similar premise but with very different outcomes. How would you compare the stories, and why do you think these characters responded so differently to such similar circumstances? How did you feel about the ending of this novel? Was it hopeful at all? Did you want things to turn out differently for these characters, and if so, how? Is there a potential ending that would have left Celestial, Roy, and Andre in a happy place? Need more ideas for An American Marriage book club questions or any other book your club discusses? Check out Book Riot's Book Club Discussion Questions. These 40 questions are great for any book. Endorsed by Barack Obama and Elle - An American Marriage must be good! I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book, it is one to read slowly as there is so much to savour in it. The relationships are complex and ever changing. The insight into human emotion and what makes people tick is really impressive. The plot holds together effectively and is well balanced. The use of first person, where different chapters are told by different characters, means that everyone gets to 'have their say'. As such the structure is simple but effective. The story unfolds after the one of the protagonists, Roy, is wrongly accused of rape. He then goes on to serve five years of a twelve year sentence. Jones doesn't explore the trial in any detail but it underpins all that follows; had Roy been a white man rather than black then it is extremely unlikely that his accuser would have jumped to the conclusion that he was a rapist. The only part of the story I didn't find convincing was the development when Roy went on to share a cell with his biological father. It did, however, provide an opportunity for father/son relationships to be effectively explored in the text. Barack Obama and Elle both rave about the book, so I guess for the majority this isn't a big criticism. (As an aside, have you noticed how authors tend to have quite big names recommend their books these days. I noticed the same thing in Rosie Walsli's The Man Who Didn't Call which Liame Moriarty recommended. Book Discussion Questions for An American Marriage by Tayari Jones Celestial and Roy are newly-weds but with very different career ambitions. Roy embodies the values of the American Dream whereas Celestial is from a wealthy background and is able to pursue a more artistic career without profit being her sole aim. Do you think that their different backgrounds would have prevented their marriage from being successful regardless of Roy's wrongful conviction? If Roy hadn't gone to jail would Celestial have sought solace in the arms of Andre sooner or later anyway? What life lessons does Roy learn from spending time with his father in the cell? Why was Celestial prepared to have sex with Roy after he was released from jail? Who do you think will have the happiest future - Celestial and Andre or Roy and Davinia? How would you describe the marriage between Roy's parents? Compare it to that between Celestial's parents. Why does Celestial's father resent her so much for leaving Roy and forming a relationship with Andre? What are the key themes explored in the novel? Do you think one theme has more significance than the rest? Why do you think Tayari Jones tells us so little about the actual trial of Roy? (Only for a bookclub where you all know each other well and you are not quickly offended!) Look around your bookclub which person in the group is the most like Roy and which is most like Celestial? Why? Discuss how gender is a significant theme explored in An American Marriage? An American Marriage uses the first person to express directly the thoughts, words and emotions of the characters in the story? What are the advantages and disadvantages of books written using a first person narrative? From the outset of this story there is an implication that Celestial doubts Roy's fidelity. Can a relationship be successful without trust? An American Marriage is described in many reviews as being 'nuanced and evocative'. What other books would you apply these adjectives to? What is the biggest barrier to a successful marriage? Is it issues related to class, race or gender, or none of the above? Put yourself in the situation where you were in a 'precarious' marriage to someone who was wrongly convicted for a crime that you knew they hadn't committed. Would you stand by them? Why or why not? Andre and Celestial are childhood friends? Do you think it is possible for friendships between men and women to exist without any hint of attraction or sexual tension between them? Author Tayari Jones won the Women's Prize for Fiction 2019. Summing up of Tayari Jones' An American Marriage This is Tayari Jones' fourth book, but I believe the first one to be published in the UK. I hadn't come across her writing before but will now definitely seek out her other novels. There is flair and craft in every sentence she produces.

Amazon Best Books of the Month, March 2012: At age 26, following the death of her mother, divorce, and a run of reckless behavior, Cheryl Strayed found herself alone near the foot of the Pacific Crest Trail—inexperienced, over-equipped, and desperate to reclaim her life. Wild tracks Strayed's personal journey on the PCT through California and Oregon, as she comes to terms ... Amazon Best Books of the Month, May 2011: In the Garden of Beasts is a vivid portrait of Berlin during the first years of Hitler's reign, brought to life through the stories of two people: William E. Dodd, who in 1933 became America's first ambassador to Hitler's regime, and his scandalously carefree daughter, Martha. Ambassador Dodd, an unassuming and scholarly man, is an odd fit ...

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