

LITERARY BOOK CLUB

May 2019 Selection

***An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones**

Newlyweds Celestial and Roy are the embodiment of both the American Dream and the New South. He is a young executive, and she is an artist on the brink of an exciting career. But as they settle into the routine of their life together, they are ripped apart by circumstances neither could have imagined. Roy is arrested and sentenced to twelve years for a crime Celestial knows he didn't commit. Though fiercely independent, Celestial finds herself bereft and unmoored, taking comfort in Andre, her childhood friend, and best man at their wedding. As Roy's time in prison passes, she is unable to hold on to the love that has been her center. After five years, Roy's conviction is suddenly overturned, and he returns to Atlanta ready to resume their life together.

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Discussion Questions:

1. Why is the title, *An American Marriage*, significant to the story? What does the title mean to you?
2. Celestial and Roy write letters to each other while he's in jail. What do these letters tell us about the characters' relationship?
3. What roles do race and class play in the book? Why do you think Jones chose not to identify of the race of the woman who accused Roy?
4. At what point did Celestial and Roy's marriage begin to fall apart? Do you think they would have stayed together if Roy hadn't gone to prison?

5. Were you surprised by how Celestial's relationship with Andre developed? Which man did you think was better suited to be Celestial's partner? Why?

Review or Comment about this book:

Help others with their decision to read this book by simply leaving your comments and reviews online at <http://www.booksamillion.com/p/9781616208684>

Recommendations:

- If you liked *An American Marriage*, you might like *Twelve Mile Straight* (<http://www.booksamillion.com/p/9780062422095>)
- You might also enjoy *The Last Ballad* (<http://www.booksamillion.com/p/9780062313126>)