



Book Club questions for Magic America by C.E. Medford

Which characters did you care the most about? Did those feelings change as the novel progressed?

The 'world' of Magic America is a magical realism version of Trenton, New Jersey. What do you think were the author's creative reasons for putting this particular 'lens' on this environment? Do you think it added to the story? Did it make Trenton a more appealing place to 'visit' for the duration of the book?

How do you feel about this particular portrayal of the 80s?

Did you feel this book was more plot-driven or character-driven? Were you engaged more by the story or the people?

Angela is a mother in difficult circumstances. How did you feel about the decisions she made through the course of the novel?

What do you think really happened to Lee (Hope's father)? Is he dead? Did Angela kill him?

If Rooster offered you a ride, would you get on the bike?

You've taken a wrong turn and find yourself driving along Purple Mountain Highway. The characters in Magic America are stranded on the side of the road. Knowing what you know from the book, which one (or ones) do you offer a ride to get help? What would you talk about?

How did you feel about the level of violence in the novel? Did it seem appropriate to the circumstances and the accurate depiction of this world?

How do you feel about Freak Eddie's 'revenge' on Capper Golding? Do you think it was too harsh? Too easy? What do you think he deserved?

Did you have the sense that justice was served by the end of the novel? Were you satisfied with the outcomes for the characters?

By the end of the novel did you feel Hope grew and changed? Did you feel she learned something about herself and the way the world works?

How did you feel at the end of the book? Did you learn anything from any of the characters? Do you feel that you gained some insight into an unfamiliar world?

What was most memorable aspect of this novel?

What are your hopes for the characters beyond the end of the book? Hope? Angela? Rooster? Rick? Any of the others?