



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

Yesteryear by Caro Claire Burke

1. How did your opinion of Natalie change over the course of the book, especially as you learned more about her personal background, the origins of Yesteryear Ranch, and her transformation after Shannon's allegations?
2. Do you engage with accounts like Natalie's on social media? What's your relationship with them, are you an "Angry Woman" or a fan/sympathizer? How has reading this novel changed the way you view the real-life influencers, especially #tradwives?
3. Throughout the book, Natalie compares herself with her college roommate, Reena, whose views on motherhood/womanhood seem to be opposites of Natalie's, at first. Does Natalie sometimes long for, or admire, Reena's choices and views? How do you think Natalie's life would have progressed if she hadn't married so young, dropped out of Harvard, and had to create her own security?
4. How does Natalie and Caleb's marriage complicate the distinction between "man's work" and "women's work" in terms of what tasks and responsibilities are valued, paid, seen, and innate? Reflect on your own relationships' "rules" or examples among friends and family.
5. What do you think would have happened if Caleb had had the chance to run for office? Would his public performance have hurt or helped Yesteryear, their family, and America? Do you think their life would have been happier, easier, more "successful" if he'd become a kindergarten teacher as he had wanted?
6. Compare Natalie's first set of children with her later children raised in the traditional ranch. Why do you think she doesn't recognize the latter as her own at first?
7. Based on the ending, what do you think the author wants for her daughter and for women today?

These questions were taken from
https://www.princetonbookreview.com/book_pages/discussion/yesteryear.php to
enhance your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Caro Claire Burke is a novelist and co-host of Diabolical Lies, a culture and politics podcast. *Yesteryear* is her first book. (<https://www.caroclaireburke.com>)

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