

*The Many Mothers of Ivy Puddingstone* Discussion Questions

1. Were the parents of Roundhouse selfish or selfless? Did you identify with Annabel's struggle between choosing her career and raising her family? Can women really have it all?
2. Does Annabel deserve Ivy's moving away from her—emotionally and physically—as a young adult? Do you think Ivy's opinion of her mother will evolve further as she raises her own family and gets older? How
3. Which of Ivy's mothers besides Annabel do you think made the most significant impact on her, and why?
4. Were you shocked when you found out who Ivy's father was? Were you hoping for a different outcome? Why or why not?
5. What do you think would have happened to Roundhouse had the accident not happened?
6. Which character did you empathize with the most, and why? Which one did you dislike the most, and why?
7. Which scene affected you the most, and why? Did any parts frustrate you and get you mad? Did any parts make you exclaim out loud? What were they?
8. -Did you identify more with Annabel or Ivy?
9. What are your opinions of Guthrie, and did they change from the beginning of the book until the end?
10. Which Roundhouse couple (Chuck and Diantha, Roxanne and Grady, Wyatt and Melanie, Suze and Grady) was your favorite, and why?
11. Do you think the sexual attractions and eventual dalliance in partner swapping was inevitable given the living situation or a product of the times?
12. Did you live through the historical events described in the book? Do you remember the atmosphere being similar, or were your experiences in the era different? If the book takes place mainly before your time, did you learn anything about the social causes of the sixties and seventies that surprised you or that you had forgotten?
13. They say the more things change, the more they stay the same. How do you think the social justice aspects of the story relate to our lives today?

14. Did you find yourself highlighting any passages? What were some of those standout sentences, and why did they resonate with you?
15. Would you have given the book a different title? If so, why, and what might you have chosen?
16. If you didn't read this based on a recommendation or as a book club pick, what made you pick this book to read? Did the story match your expectations?