

The Image of Valor Book Club Discussion Questions

Characters

1. What do you think of Valorie? What terms would you use to describe her?
2. Do you think you would like Val if you met her in person?
3. Which of the other characters did you like? Which did you dislike? In each case, why?
4. How did you feel about the up-and-down nature of Val and Gil's relationship in this story? Do you think they end up in a healthy place?
5. Do you think that the author—a middle-aged white male—portrayed Val, a young woman who struggles with her memories of abuse by older men—authentically and sympathetically? How about the other young women in the book, like Shelby and Pinkie?

Scenes and plot

6. Which scene or scenes stood out to you? Why?
7. Were you satisfied with the conclusion of the story? How would you describe the state of Val's personal development at the end of the book?

Personal connection

8. For the most part, what emotion(s) did the story evoke in you as a reader?
9. Did you identify with one or more characters in particular? How did that affect your enjoyment of the book?
10. How did the body shaming/body image/body positivity theme affect your enjoyment of and engagement with the book? What do you think of the way the author handled those issues?

Writing

11. *The Image of Valor* crosses genres, blending elements of women's, LGBTQIA+, and romantic fiction with the plot-driven aspects of police procedurals and crime novels. Did this work for you, as a reader?
12. If you could change something about the book, what would it be and why?
13. Describe what you liked or disliked about the writing style.

General

14. If someone asks you what this book is about, how would you answer them?
15. Name your favorite thing overall about the book, and your least favorite.
16. When did you realize who The Engineer was?
17. At what point in the book did you decide if you liked it or not? What helped make this decision?