

book club questions

A GENTLEMAN IN MOSCOW

- Discuss the above quotes from A Gentleman in Moscow.
- Was the Count lucky or unlucky to receive the sentence of house arrest?
- Discuss the meaning of family in the Count's life both before and after his arrest.
- How did the Count's sister influence the Count's life?
- Discuss the intersection between art (poetry, literature, music, movies) and politics in A Gentleman in Moscow, and in real life.
- Why do you think the Count loves the movie *Casablanca* so much?
- Why do such different characters as the Count and young Nina get along?
- How do the various characters in A Gentleman in Moscow impact the very limited life of the Count?
- How does Sofia change the life of the Count?
- What gives the Count a sense of purpose in his limited life?
- Is the Count's life a "full" one?
- How does the Count change over time, particularly due to his circumstances and due to Russian politics?
- What were the highs and lows of the Count's life at the Metropol?
- In your opinion, what was the highest high and the lowest low of the Count's life throughout A Gentleman in Moscow?
- How does the Count cope with the lows in his life?
- How may the Count's life have differed were he not under house arrest?
- How do you envision the Metropol?

- What were your favorite descriptions of the Metropol?
- Who was your favorite staff member at the Metropol?
- Who was your favorite character in the Count's life?
- Was the count more in control of his life or lacking control in his life?
- Were the Count's circumstances due to fate, chance, or choice?
- How does working affect the Count's life?
- Discuss the food and drinks at the Metropol.
- If you were to eat or drink at the Metropol, what would you order?
- Are you aware that the Metropol is a real hotel?
- Discuss the importance of the passkeys both figuratively and literally.
- Did you find any parts of A Gentleman in Moscow to be funny?
- Does COVID-19 (and its mandatory quarantines) change your perspective on the Count's circumstances?
- Discuss Russian politics at the time period in which A Gentleman in Moscow was set.
- Did you learn anything new about Russian politics?
- How does Towles convey what's happening outside the Metropol?
- Did you notice any differences in the behavior of characters of different classes?
- Discuss the role of gender in A Gentleman in Moscow.
- Would you have tried to escape the Metropol?
- Technically, A Gentleman in Moscow is historical fiction. Would you categorize it as any other genre or sub-genre?
- If you were under house arrest in a hotel for much of your lifetime, which hotel do you wish it would be?
- Did the ending of A Gentleman in Moscow surprise you at all?

