

THE APARTMENT DISCUSSION QUESTIONS...

1. THE BOOK IS TOLD BY A SERIES OF CHARACTERS WHO LIVE IN THE SAME APARTMENT OVER TIME. WHY DO YOU THINK THE AUTHOR CHOSE TO TELL THE STORY THIS WAY? WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES IT A NOVEL RATHER THAN A SET OF STORIES?

2. SETTINGS CAN OFTEN ACT AS CHARACTERS IN NOVELS, AND THE HELENA IS NO EXCEPTION. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE HELENA'S PRESENCE IN THE NOVEL? DOES IT CHANGE OVER THE COURSE OF THE NARRATIVE? IF SO, HOW?

3. DID ONE OF THE CHARACTERS SPEAK TO YOU THE MOST? WHO WOULD YOU CHOOSE TO STAR IN THEIR OWN NOVEL AND WHY?

-4. WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN YOUR HOME BEFORE YOU? WHAT DO YOU THINK A BOOK TAKING PLACE IN YOUR HOME INSTEAD OF APARTMENT 2B WOULD BE ABOUT?

5. THE NOVEL SPANS THE MID-20TH CENTURY TO EARLY-21ST CENTURY IN SEVERAL TIME JUMPS. WHAT FEELS SIGNIFICANT ABOUT THE YEARS WE DO SEE, AND WHAT DO THEY REVEAL ABOUT LIFE IN MIAMI AND IN AMERICA DURING THOSE TIMES?

6 A MAJOR THEME IN *THE APARTMENT* IS PERSEVERANCE. HOW DOES PERSEVERANCE MANIFEST IN THE PERSONAL, FAMILIAL, COMMUNAL, AND NATIONAL LEVELS FOR DIFFERENT CHARACTERS?

