

DISCOUNT

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Reader's Group Guide

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the epigraph. How does it set the tone for the rest of the novel?
2. This novel shifts back and forth between a larger-than-usual cast of characters. What effect did this have on your understanding and enjoyment of the story and its themes? Was there a character you found particularly compelling?
3. Would you want to work at the Superstore? Why or why not?
4. The orientation video says, "All the American dreams are achieved through perseverance and teamwork." Do you agree? How does it apply to those working in the Superstore?
5. Dolly makes the slightly shocking decision to keep her dead husband, Cal, in her RV. What do you think inspired her decision? Have you dealt with the loss of a loved one? Did your own actions in the aftermath of the loss surprise you?
6. The concept of family plays a significant role in the novel. Do you see the superstore workers as a kind of family? Why or why not?
7. How do you feel about Ron and his predicament? Have you ever found yourself in a seemingly inescapable mess? How did you react, and how do your reactions compare with Ron's?
8. On p. 243, Fatima "thinks about how strange it is... in America, the way they pretend to care about you." Do you agree with her? Do you think the Superstore only pretends to care about its workers?
9. What is your experience with work and the workplace? Have you worked somewhere like the Superstore? What stories would you tell about your workplace and colleagues?
10. What other novels have you read that are set in the workplace? How is *Discount* like those stories? How is it different?