

Reading Group Guide

Discussion Points:

1. Were Iola and Emma correct to try to “guide” Dean towards a wife that would be more acceptable to his family?
2. What kind of guilt and family pressures did Dean deal with because he was not there to help when his parents died?
3. Was Dean suffering from what is now called Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome?
4. Did Dean treat Calli Dey unfairly and could he have handled her situation differently?
5. Should he have been honest with Alicia about what happened with Calli right from the start?
6. Was Jake just a dirty old man or did he really care about Alicia?
7. Why does Catherine have such a low opinion of Dean’s family?
8. Were domestic violence, infidelity and alcoholism more accepted in those days in the black community?
9. What do you think happened to Alicia in Cuba?
10. Was Dean’s career as baseball player more affected by his personal life or by the events of times, as Negro Baseball Leagues were going into decline because of integration?