

El Macho

Book Club Discussion Guide

Thank you for choosing El Macho for your book club. This novel invites conversation around personal growth, family relationships, power, immigration, and trafficking.

Character and Relationships

1. Did you see any part of yourself or someone you know in Jessica's journey?
2. Which character relies most on reputation rather than action to maintain control throughout this book?
3. Araceli reinvents her life once she's finally given the chance to choose her own path. What does that reinvention cost her, and what does it give her?
4. When Jessica steals Jace's gun instead of confronting him, what does that moment reveal about the kind of investigator she's becoming?
5. At what point did your opinion of Travis begin to change?
6. If you could ask Jessica one question about her choices in this book, what would it be?

Situational Questions:

7. Jessica notices Dick Saunders speaking with Deputy Mayfield before anyone else seems to be concerned. Looking back, how important was that moment?
8. If you had been investigating alongside Jessica, what clue do you think you would have missed?
9. Andres insists Jace is only a small piece of a much bigger problem and claims his real target has always been the Jeffries. Does this explanation make Andres more understandable—or simply more dangerous?
10. If you could change one decision made by any character in El Macho—without changing the ending entirely—which decision would you change, and how do you think it would have altered the story?
11. Jessica eventually learns more about the connection between her father's corruption and Andres's past. Did those revelations make you sympathize with Jessica's father?

Reflection

12. What stayed with you most after finishing the book—an idea, a moment, or a question?