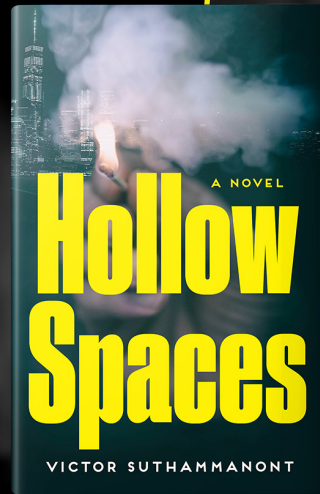


OFFICIAL READING GROUP GUIDE

1. The main mystery that runs through the novel is whether John committed the crime. What were your theories and how did they change as you read the book?

2. The other main story revolves around Brennan's and Hunter's opposing views on their father's verdict and their quest for the truth. What did you think about their different approaches? Are there long-standing mysteries in your life that you wish you could solve?



3. John and his children share certain strengths and flaws. How did John's character affect who his children were and who they became?

4. How Jane's reaction to her husband's actions change her relationship with her children? How did Jane's choices affect the adults her children grew into?

5. John's relationship with Jessica is a critical part of the story. Why do you think that they were drawn to each other? How understandable was John's conduct?

6. The loneliness and grief of each character in the book is a primary driver of who they are and how they act. In what ways do you think isolation/loneliness affected each of the character's choices in the novel?

7. How did John's experience of racism impact his isolation? How do you think the crowded setting of the novel (New York City) affected those feelings?

8. Throughout the novel, the children debate accountability and forgiveness, even as John's story addresses his lived experience of those issues. Which of the children did you agree with, and why? Which of John's outcomes were deserved?

9. Multiple scenes revolve around preparing Chinese food, including Brennan recreating her father's lo mien recipe. In what ways did food connect John and his children to their heritage and each other? What are some of the favorite recipes you inherited from your parents?

10. The novel tells the story of Asian American characters. How would your experience of the novel changed if the characters had been of your race? If you're Asian American, how were the characters' experiences as Asian Americans different or similar to your own? To what extent did you view their story as specific to their experience as Asian Americans, and what elements did you view as universal?