



March 13-27, 2025

Discussion Questions

1. What did you think of Hattie McDaniel before you read the book? Did you have some preconceived notions about her character or life that changed after reading? Do you have any new thoughts on her or her legacy?
2. Hattie believed that her winning the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress was going to open doors for her career. Do you think she was being realistic or too naïve?
3. Hattie McDaniel and Clark Gable were friends years before they worked together on *Gone with the Wind* and remained friends until her passing. What did you think of this friendship?
4. We see Hattie work and be friends with many big names in Hollywood throughout the book. What did you think of Hattie's relationships with these people and with Hollywood as a whole?
5. Hattie struggles throughout the book to make space for herself (and other actors like her) to take on roles that go against the NAACP and Walter White's vision for Black performers. Who do you personally think was right? Do you agree with Hattie or with Walter?
6. What did you think of the author's characterization of Hattie? Of her choices?
7. One of Hattie's most infamous quotes is "I'd rather play a maid for \$700 than be a maid for \$7." Her critics felt that was self-serving and she was enriching herself at the expense of her race. What are your thoughts on that?
8. Hattie wants to be a role model for Black Americans, but finds herself at odds with many over the course of the book. What did you make of this?
9. How do you think Hattie, actors like her, and their work impacted the work of later Black performers?